US firm on Mark Jimenez extradition, but . . .

STORY ON PAGE A2

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SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2001 ★ 64 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 92 ₱15

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CRUISE

Slain cop's last words: Get me out

BY CARLITO PABLO AND DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

TO the very end, Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin thought of going home.

"Have pity. Get me away from here," he begged 1st Lt. Warren Dagupon in Filipino as he lay wounded early Thursday in a hut in Sitio Tamala, Barangay Magsikap, in the town of General Nakar in Quezon.

"Sir, we're under heavy fire," responded Dagupon, leader of the 10-member Scout Ranger team that, he said, chanced on a camp of New People's Army guerrillas who were holding Martin captive.

Dagupon, 29, a 1997 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, said he eventually carried the wounded officer out of the hut.

It was about 1:30 a.m., after the Rangers entered the camp following an hour-long firefight.

Martin was still alive at about 7 a.m. when the Rangers reached the shoreline of Infanta on board a rubber boat.

"I could feel his pulse but he couldn't talk anymore," Dagupon said.

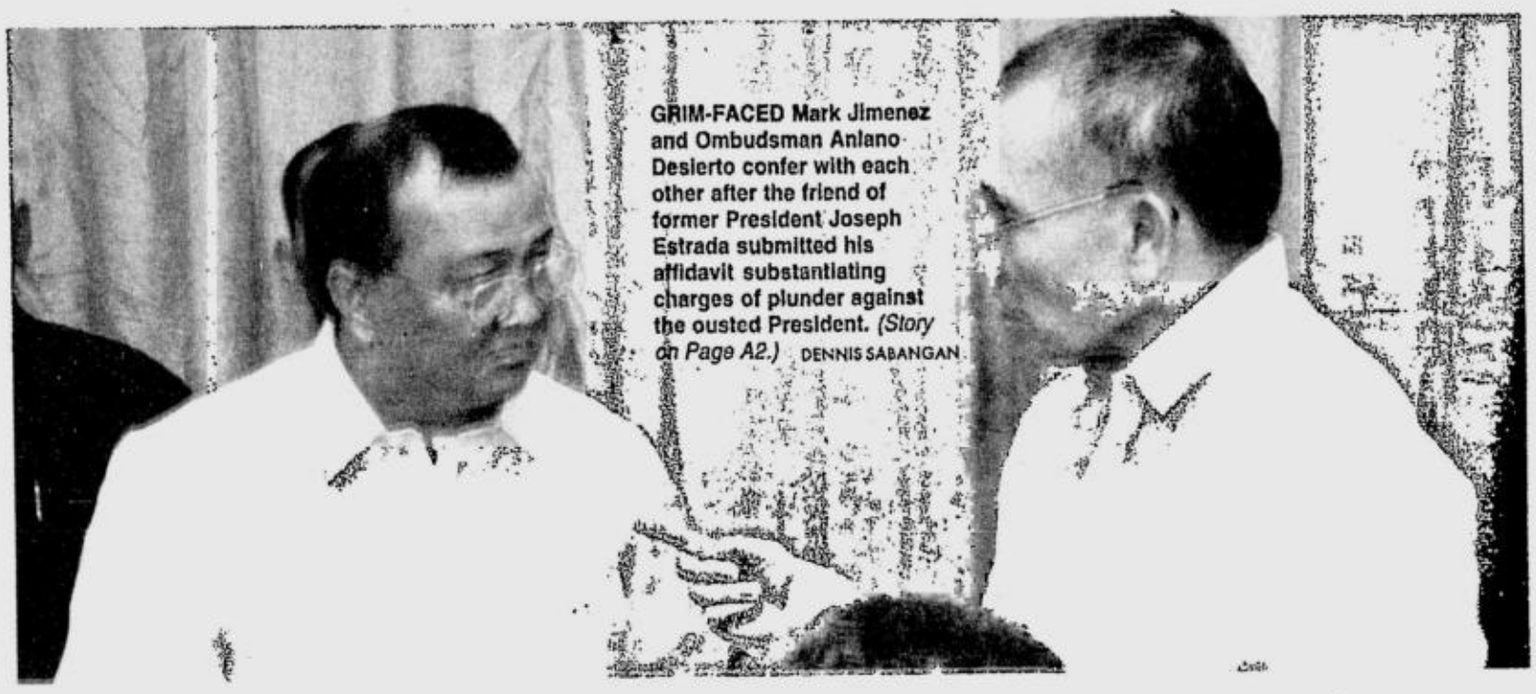
Bad weather prevented a military helicopter that was to evacuate Martin from landing. At about 9 a.m. the former police chief of Dolores town, who was abducted by NPA guerrillas in November 1999, died from blood loss.

In Lucena City, two intelligence sources, one from the police and the other from the military, told the INQUIRER Thursday that Martin would not have met such a sad fate had President Macapagal-Arroyo given the go-signal for back-channel negotiations by members of his family, the Left and the religious.

SLAIN/ A16

GROUNDED: The Learjet that was scheduled to fly Estrada friend Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco to Hong Kong and Calgary, Canada, sits at its hangar near the Ninoy Aquino International Airport after it was grounded by the Air Transportation Office on suspicion that the former President might join the flight to escape. ROGER MARGALLO

US can't promise to extradite Erap



GRIM-FACED Mark Jimenez and Ombudsman Aniano Desierto confer with each other after the friend of former President Joseph Estrada submitted his affidavit substantiating charges of plunder against the ousted President. *(Story on Page A2.)* DENNIS SABANGAN

11 gov'ts asked to deny him asylum

BY ROCKY NAZARENO AND TJ BURGONIO

US EMBASSY officials "could not give any assurance" that Washington would extradite former President Joseph Estrada for the crime of plunder should he flee to the United States, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said after meeting with a group of American diplomats yesterday.

The group paid him a courtesy call around the same time that aviation authorities stopped a Learjet, believed to be owned by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., from flying to Hong Kong amid fears that Estrada might sneak out of the country.

During the meeting with Perez, US charge d'affaires Michael Malinowski and other embassy officials told the justice chief that there are certain states that maintain a policy of refusing to extradite a person for a crime punishable by death—which plunder is under Philippine laws.

"That's going to be a problem," Perez said after meeting with Malinowski, counselor for political affairs Judith Cefkin, Federal Bu-

US/ A16

Namfrel wants 'judge, accuser, opposer' out

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

SPECIAL REPORT

(Last of two parts)

FOR "acting as judge, accuser and opposer," Commissioner Luzviminda G. Tancangco should be disqualified from the Commission on Elections' proceedings on the application for accreditation of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel).

The 300,000-member Namfrel had earlier asked the Comelec to declare the group its citizens' arm so that Namfrel could conduct a quick count during the May 14 elections, a job that Namfrel had been doing since anyone cares to remember.

The Namfrel case (SPP 00-040) is pending before the commission en banc.

In a January draft resolution, the Comelec voted against Namfrel's petition to undertake its traditional Operation Quick Count (OQC), while it unanimously approved the organization's accreditation as the election body's citizens' arm.

Aside from Tancangco, those who voted against the quick count were Commissioners Rufino Javier, Ralph Lantion, Mehol Sadain and Julio Desamito. Those who approved of both Namfrel's accreditation and OQC proposal were then Comelec Chair Harriet Demetriou and Commissioner Teresita Dy-Liacco Flores.

The election body is expected to decide on the accreditation petitions of both the Namfrel and the Na-

NAMFREL/ A17

Haydee twits NPC for tie-up yarn

HAYDEE Yorac, national chair of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), yesterday denied that it had "promised" to join the National Press Club in its quick-count project.

"There is no such commitment; there is no such tie-up," Yorac said in a statement.

The supposed promise was cited by Delfin Perez, acting secretary of the NPC, in saying that the project had ample backing from citizens.

But Yorac said that while Jose Leviste of Polistrat and a Prof. Malu Tiquia "had approached the PPCRV for the purpose, they were clearly told that for such a tie-up to even be considered, the PPCRV must see proof that the organization and its members are nonpartisan, and that they have the capability to implement the project."

She said "no such proof" had been presented.

In Davao City, senatorial candidate Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan expressed disapproval of the NPC proposal to serve as poll watchdog.

Pangilinan said that while he did not mean to antagonize the NPC,

HAYDEE/ A17

Let me vote, coed urges high court

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA, DONNA S. CUETO AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

AN 18-YEAR-OLD student of the University of the Philippines yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking the holding of special registration to allow first-time voters like her to participate in the May 14 elections.

Michelle D. Betito said she was filing the petition on behalf of the 4.5 million young people, who are at least 18 years old but failed to register on or before Dec. 27 last year.

Earlier, the Akbayan-Youth and five student organizations asked the high tribunal to order the Comelec to hold a special registration.

Betito blamed the Comelec for its failure to inform the public about the registration period last year.

Betito said the disenfranchisement of 4.5 million youth and adults was "a rare phenomenon which requires extraordinary measures on the part of the government."

Comelec Chair Alfred Benipayo said the poll body would hold a special registration of voters if Congress passes a law setting a date for

LET/ A16

ELEKSYON 2001

Media giants join forces for poll coverage

ELECTION PARTNERS: INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez and publisher Isagani Yambot (extreme right) shake hands with GMA-7 executive vice president-COO Jimmy Duavit (left) and president-CEO Felipe Gozon after the signing of Eleksyon 2001 agreement. EDWIN BACASMAS

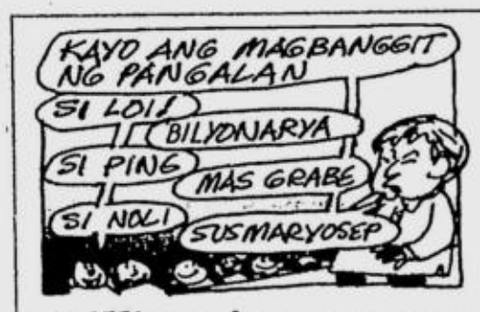
BY CELINE R. MADAMBA

THE COUNTRY'S media giants yesterday joined forces for the country's most comprehensive multi-media coverage of the May 2001 elections. The tie-up will be called Eleksyon 2001.

The coverage, which had previously been spearheaded by GMA Network Inc. and the Philippine Daily Inquirer, will now include five multi-media partners—radio networks RGMA Network Inc., Nation Broadcasting Corp. and Radyo Veritas-Catholic Media Network and new media organizations INQ7.net Inc. and New Media Inc.

The seven groups have agreed to work together to cover the elections and to share information obtained by their news reporters and

MEDIA/ A16



Billionaires among Erap bets named

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA, MARTIN P. MARFIL AND VOLT CONTRERAS

SENATORIAL candidates of the ruling People Power Coalition may have been instructed not to mention the names of their rivals in the Puwersa ng Masa (PnM), but that didn't stop Rep. Joker Arroyo from taking potshots at several of them yesterday.

BILLIONAIRES/ A17

Second FRONT PAGE

US firm on extradition, but . . .

BY ROCKY NAZARENO
AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE US government is adamant that controversial businessman Mark Jimenez be extradited to the said country to face various charges, but may consider waiting while he testifies against his former close friend, ousted President Joseph Estrada.

US Embassy officials who paid a courtesy call on Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday reiterated their government's request for Jimenez's extradition to answer charges of making illegal campaign donations to the Democratic Party, among other raps.

But, Perez said, "I asked them if we could hang on to Jimenez while he testifies (in Estrada's plunder case)."

He said the US "is keeping an open mind on this and will allow us to get the information we need from Jimenez.

"They are willing to wait until we get the information we need, and after that, we can start talking about continuing extradition proceedings against Jimenez," Perez said.

Those who called on Perez were charge d'affaires Michael E. Malinowski, counsel for political affairs Judith Cefkin, FBI legal affairs representative James D. Nixon and counselor for economic affairs Morton Holbrooke III.

The US officials also inquired into the status of the extradition case of former Quezon Gov. Eduardo Rodriguez who is wanted in America for insurance fraud.

"(The officials) wanted to know what our reaction is since both Jimenez and Rodriguez are running in the coming elections," Perez said.

He said he assured the Americans that the DOJ was studying the cases of Jimenez and Rodriguez and would come up with its answer next week.

Jimenez yesterday said he would present more evidence to substantiate his charge that Estrada extorted P346 million from him between December 1998 and August 2000.

Jimenez went to the Office of the Ombudsman to testify on the contents of the two affidavits he had submitted earlier to the Ombudsman preliminary investigation panel which is probing the eighth plunder charge against Estrada.

Accompanied by his lawyer Mario Bautista, Jimenez said he would submit supplemental pleadings to the special panel on Monday.

The supplemental pleadings are needed to clarify certain points that the special panel headed by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio raised at yesterday's hearing.

In the two affidavits, Jimenez, Estrada's former adviser on Latin affairs, said he issued 10 checks to Estrada totaling P346 million, including a P126-million advance commission for the Equitable and PCI banks merger that was brokered by Jimenez.

Secretary Perez said he asked the US Embassy officials what punishment Jimenez might face if he is convicted in America.

"They said Jimenez could have plea-bargained and gotten off after serving only a few months in jail, but since he became a fugitive and has been dodging extradition for a long time," Perez said, "the US government may not be inclined to be lenient."

Perez said the US officials also told him their government is offering to exchange Filipino prisoners in US jails for Americans currently in Philippine jails.

He said the officials had with them a list of Americans in jail in this country.

"As far as we're concerned, we're going to have to coordinate with the Philippine Embassy in the US and with the Department of Foreign Affairs to come up with our own list," Perez said.

Perez said returning Filipino convicts might be in for a shock, however.

"I have a friend who stabbed somebody in the US. While in jail, he has a television, air-conditioning, his own toilet," he said.

"(But if he returns), he will return to a jail with an epidemic of boils," Perez said.

DENNIS SABANGAN

MARK Jimenez confers with Ombudsman Aniano Desierto at the Office of the Ombudsman.

Mad cow scare: Read those labels, DOH tells public

THE DEPARTMENT of Health yesterday advised the public to scrutinize the labels of imported corned beef whether or not theses came from the 13 European countries affected by the bovine spongiform encephalopathy or the dreaded mad cow disease.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit asked the public to report beef merchandise from the following countries: United Kingdom, Ireland, Switzerland, Portugal, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, and Spain.

"What the buying public can do to help in ridding products believed to be tainted by the BSE is they can report to BFAD if they see any canned meat products from the 13 European countries found in stores or supermarkets," Dayrit added.

At present, Dayrit said there are no reported of mad cow disease in local cattle.

Bu the DOH officials are reviewing hospital records of patients who died of dementia or severe cerebral impairment to establish a baseline data.

Norman Bordadora

Gatchalian, Perez to discuss another plunder rap vs Erap

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

BUSINESSMAN William Gatchalian, a known crony of ousted President Joseph Estrada, is to meet with Justice Secretary Hernando Perez on Monday for initial discussions on the possibility of testifying in another plunder charge to be filed against the deposed leader.

Perez disclosed this yesterday, saying the justice department was "already completing certain documents" in connection with the new charges. He said the charges against Estrada could reach 13.

Estrada already faces eight charges of plunder before the Office of the Ombudsman.

Gatchalian's testimony is expected to link Estrada to purchases made by the Government Service Insurance System of shares of stock of the Gatchalian-owned Waterfront Philippines Inc.

Estrada is believed to have earned hundreds of millions of pesos in kickbacks from the Waterfront deal.

Perez said the Waterfront deal "was in the same style as in the Belle Corp. scam."

"The former President directed the Government Service Insurance System to make the investment," he said.

Early this week, the former heads of the GSIS and Social Security System revealed that Estrada had forced the two agencies to buy P1.8 billion worth of shares of Belle Corp., the gaming and leisure firm, and collected P187.7 million in kickbacks.

The sworn affidavits of former GSIS president and general manager Federico Pascual, former SSS chairman and president Carlos Arellano, Belle Corp. director Willie Ocier and fugitive businessman and Estrada crony Mark Jimenez form the backbone of the eighth plunder charge against Estrada.

Perez also said his office would be looking into evidence unearthed during the aborted impeachment trial which showed that Estrada lent P500 million to Gatchalian's Wellex Group by way of a trust account under the assumed name of Jose Velarde.

While it is not illegal to lend money, Perez said a government official's use of a fictitious name (Jose Velarde) has to be looked into by the Ombudsman.

In a radio interview over dzEC yesterday, Estrada denied allegations that he received P187.7 million in commissions from the Belle Corp. deal.

He claimed that Pascual and Arellano had been "subjected to harassment for over a month" by Justice Secretary Perez so they would agree to testify against him.

Speaking in Filipino, Estrada claimed that shortly before Pascual and Arellano agreed to cooperate with Perez, "their wives called me up, trembling and crying, because they feared for their husbands' lives."

"For over a month Perez harassed Arellano and Pascual, including their families who suffered sleepless nights, by threatening to file plunder cases against them, a case which is not bailable," he said.

With a report from Volt Contreras

Wanted: Moro actors, writers, media workers

BY SAMIRA ALI GUTOC

PAGING would-be Robin Padillas et al. Those who want to appear in movies, write for TV shows or manage a publication. Only qualifications needed: Muslim and confident.

An upsurge of interest in Mindanao and Muslims has spurred media moguls such as ABS-CBN and film director Marilou Diaz Abaya to feature "the misunderstood Muslims."

Islamic Wisdom Worldwide head Amin Gafari relays ABS-CBN is interested in featuring an hour-long TV show on Muslims. While Director Abaya's team is planning to film a dramatic movie on Mindanao and Muslims, set during the height of the war last year in Mindanao. Muslim NGO workers, in the meantime want to establish a nation-wide newspaper featuring Muslim communities.

Prospective producers and publishers face only one problem: Surprisingly it's not the peace and order problem in Muslim communities but the lack of Muslims to play as actors, writers or editors. "Muslims don't want to get involved," laments Islamic convert Abdullah Gregory.

Abaya's team for instance wants Muslim actors to portray Muslim evacuees. Mr. Allan, casting director of the film is looking for Mindanaons, preferably Muslims aged 5-20 years old to audition starting March 23.

"It's about time front page stories about Muslims are no longer about being the kidnappers and terrorists," said human rights worker and convenor of Young Muslim professionals in D'Metro Sittie Jehanne Mutin. Last year, Muslim leaders complained about Muslims being tagged as terrorists especially with the arrest of 26 Maharlika Muslims accused of the Glorietta mall bombings. One headline in a tabloid printed last December said, "Muslims Held for Blasts." "What would Christians feel if Christian kidnappers and rebels were printed in media," raised Don Loong, a Muslim youth leader and party-list candidate of the Kabataan ng Masang Pilipino (KAMPIL).

The First National Soap Summit held on January this year, discussed the lack or negative portrayal of marginalized groups such as the Muslims in media. Muslim NGOs, such as the Inter-Organizational Islamic Groups, headed by Ali Reza Kunting have been lobbying for correct representation of Muslims in media. The Philippine Human Rights Plan incorporated the Muslim Human Rights agenda which called for an inclusion of Muslim history in history books.

Academician Abdullah Madale, former vice-president of the Mindanao State University, has been tapped to introduce Muslim ideas in elementary books. "The books are just one step towards Muslim-Christian understanding because the young are yet unbiased," said Madale.

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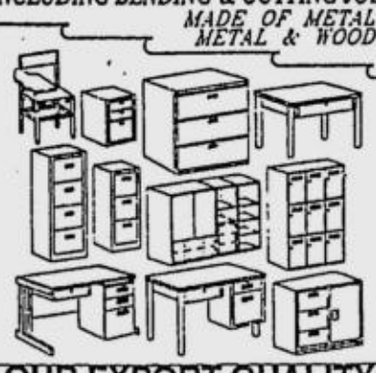

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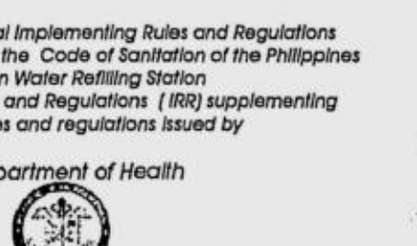

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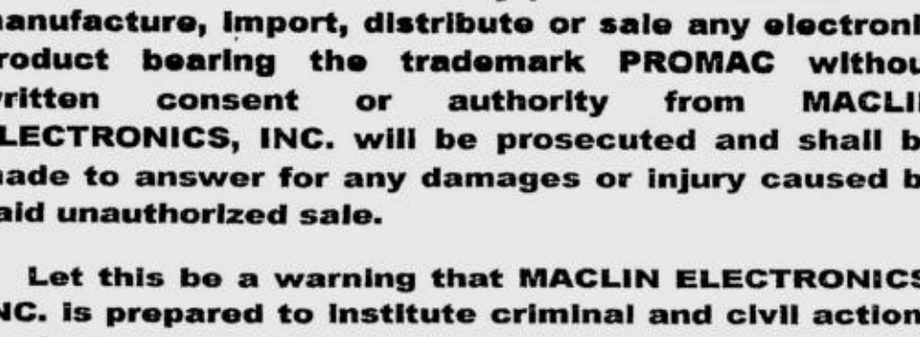

JIPANG's New Millennium Appreciation Promo

Winners of the "New Millennium Appreciation Promo" sponsored by The Jipang Group of Companies was drawn last March 1, 2001. A round trip ticket for 2 to Hong Kong, courtesy of Networld Travel & Tours Corporation, was won by Mr Osamu Taninaka of the Manila Japanese School. The draw was witnessed by DTI Representative, Mr. Benjamin O. Viloria (5th from left).

On the photo (from left to right) are: Lindy C. Evaldez (Manager, SM Kenko Sauna Corporation), Masanori Oiwa (Manager, Ryoka Japanese Restaurant), Tessie Cruz (Office Manager), Weny Loro (Manager, Networld Travel & Tours), Mr. Benjamin O. Viloria of DTI, Edgar R. Cabrera (Managing Director), Mr. Yagishita & Mr. Masahiro (regular guests of the sponsoring establishments who drew the lucky winner) and Mr. Rino Libao (Manager, Plus One Group of Companies).

ADVT.

Estrada admits talking with restive soldiers

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada said yesterday that he had been talking with soldiers who are dissatisfied with his successor, President Arroyo.

Several newspapers yesterday released an open letter by a shadowy military group calling itself the Young Officers Union.

The letter warned Arroyo that they would move against her unless she took action on so-called leftists in sensitive government positions and over alleged graft cases against her allies.

"I know about that because we have been talking to a lot of lower-ranking members of the armed forces who did not know about the withdrawal of support from me," Estrada said over radio station dzEC.

Top government officials on Friday brushed off fears of a new military coup attempt, saying that the alleged statement threatening Arroyo was a fake.

"That is just foolishness," Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said, adding that "I don't really believe there is a YOU."

Ermita recalled that a group with that name had been involved in some of the coup plots against then-president Corazon Aquino in the late-1980s. But he said the group in 1995 signed an accord to abandon its destabilization efforts.

"Some people are just trying to hide behind that name to make us think YOU is still existing," Ermita said.

Estrada said that lower-ranking soldiers were not part of the group that abandoned him January. He charged that the senior officers and retired generals had been plotting against him long before.

He challenged Arroyo to run against him in a new presidential election, saying that this should determine who is "the real president." *AFP*

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SEPARATE OPINIONS

4 justices doubt Erap quit

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

WHILE the March 2 decision of the Supreme Court affirming the legitimacy of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration was unanimous—the justices having voted 13-0—four justices have expressed some doubt over whether or not deposed President Joseph Estrada had indeed resigned.

Writing their own separate opinions, Justices Santiago Kapunan, Bernardo Pardo, Consuelo Ynares-Santiago and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez expressed differing views on Estrada's ouster from the majority decision penned by Justice Reynato Puno.

While he shared his colleagues' opinion that President Macapagal-Arroyo is "now the recognized legitimate President," Kapunan said he could not agree on the circumstances of Estrada's departure from Malacañang which the Court had assumed was a resignation.

"The hasty departure of (Estrada) from Malacañang Palace and the issuance of the subject press statement cannot likewise conclusively establish the 'intent to relinquish' the presidency," he said.

Kapunan also believes that "reliance on the Angara diary to establish the 'intent' or 'state of mind' of (Estrada) is improper since the contents thereof have not been duly established as facts and are therefore hearsay."

In fact, Kapunan noted that the incidents described in the Angara diary "tell a story of desperation, duress and helplessness surrounding (Estrada), arguing eloquently against the idea of intent and voluntariness on his part to leave the presidency."

"In any event, since the conditions proposed for his resignation were not met, the act did not come to reality," Kapunan said.

In his four-page opinion, Pardo said he was reserving his vote on the question of Estrada's claim of immunity from suit.

According to him, the Court's 13-0 vote dismissing the petitions filed by Estrada "shall not be construed as foreclosing the issue of immunity and other presidential prerogatives as may be raised at the proper time, in a proper justiciable controversy."

Ynares-Santiago, in her six-page opinion, warned about "the use of people power to create a vacancy in the presidency."

She noted that there is no specific provision in the Constitution which sanctions people power "as a means of ousting a public official, let alone the President."

"It cannot be overlooked that this Court's legitimization through sufferance of the change of administration may have the effect of encouraging People Power Three, People Power Four and People Power ad infinitum," she said.

She said people power to pressure Cabinet members, Congress, government officials and even the High Court "is becoming a habit."

"It should not be stamped with legitimacy by this Court," she said.

But while she said she was against "mob rule as a means of introducing change in government," she nevertheless agreed that Ms Macapagal "rightfully assumed the presidency as the constitutionally anointed successor to the office vacated by (Estrada)."

Sandoval-Gutierrez asserted that "there can be no question that the so-called resignation of Estrada is not expressed in clear terms."

"There is no single instance when he stated he was resigning," she said.

Nevertheless, Sandoval-Gutierrez said it would be "safe to conclude that (Estrada) was compelled to 'resign' or to leave the presidency."

She added that "the legality or illegality of Estrada's so-called resignation has been laid to rest by the results that have taken place."

"Under the circumstances, the Court has to declare as a fact what in fact exists," she wrote. "Respondent Macapagal-Arroyo is the *de jure* President of the Republic of the Philippines."

Erap loyalists, cops clash; 5 hurt

BY JEROME ANING

FIVE pro-Estrada demonstrators were reported slightly injured after their group clashed with anti-riot policemen near the Supreme Court Building in Ermita, Manila yesterday.

The names of the victims, who were reportedly taken to the Philippine General Hospital, were not available at press time. A search of the records at the PGH's emergency section showed at least 20 people were treated for cuts, bruises and minor fractures.

Western Police District Director Chief Supt. Avelino Razon Jr. said the 200 pro-Estrada rallyists clashed with the WPD's civil disturbance and management group around 3:45 p.m.

Razon said the protesters tried to block the intersection of Taft Avenue and Faura Street, which leads to the SC Building, but were prevented by lawmen.

As traffic built up on the north and south lanes of Taft, the angry pro-Estrada activists pelted the police with stones, bottles and plates.

The protesters were driven back to their assembly area across Taft Avenue, in front of the Manila Science High School.

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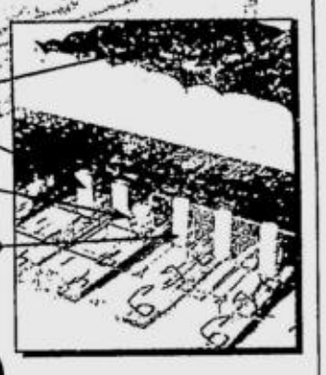

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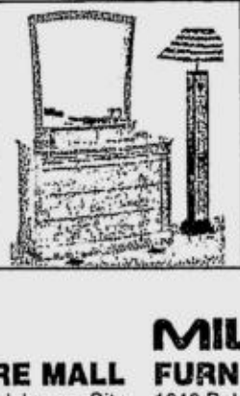

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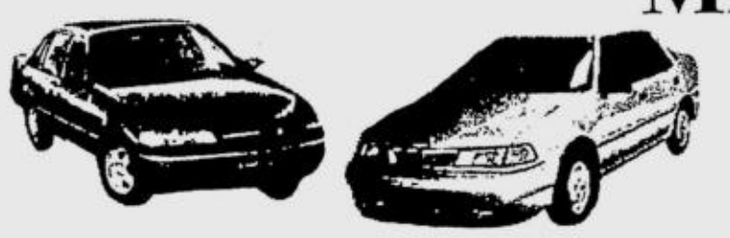

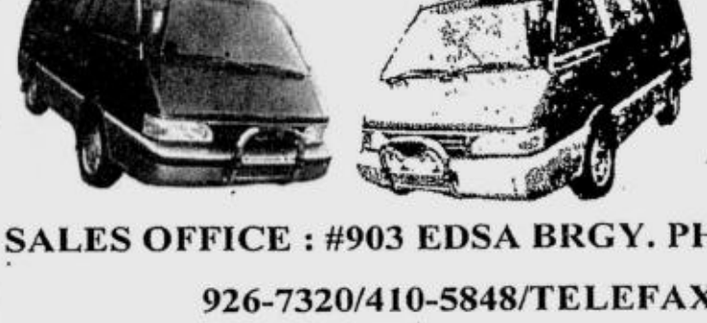

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Edsa group launches 13-0 Movement

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

A NEW civil society coalition calling itself the 13-0 Movement will campaign for the 13 senatorial candidates of the administration's People Power Coalition to ensure that the gains of Edsa II are preserved.

"This (election) is about the Edsa forces against the forces that tried to deceive the people and forces that have institutionalized corruption," said Tony Meloto of the Couples for Christ, a component group of the movement.

Meloto said that the movement is made up of non-government and people's organizations which took part in People Power II and it aims at imparting three "messages": to give the Macapagal administration the chance to succeed, to continue the People Power II fight for stability and progress and to tell the winning candidates that they are being watched.

Meloto said that the movement's decision to support the 13 PPC candidates was not so much out of "partisan or personal choice" but has to do with taking "moral stand."

Though the CFC, for one, differs with PPC candidate Sen. Juan Flavier on the population issue, it has let the matter drop "out of the interest of the country," Meloto said.

The CFC is mobilizing its more than 1 million members to vote and campaign for the PPC.

It is the first time that the CFC is participating in an electoral campaign in its 20-year existence, Meloto said.

Teresita Baltazar of Konsensyang Pilipino stressed the need to work for the routing of the opposition candidates being supported by deposed president Joseph Estrada.

"We can't allow this evil to triumph," she said in a news conference yesterday.

Meloto said the group has informed President Macapagal-Arroyo about the movement and that she was "happy" about it.

The President donned the movement's T-shirt, inscribed with the 13-0 numbers, during a PPC rally in Mandaluyong on Thursday night.

Ms Macapagal has been urging voters to vote straight for the administration senatorial candidates.

Former Quezon City Mayor Jun Simon is acting as "campaign coordinator" for the movement which will hold it first big gathering at the De La Salle University on Taft Avenue on March 13.

Simon said the movement will be holding regional congresses of leaders and will be campaigning in the provincial, municipal, barangay and even precinct levels.

The movement includes such groups as the Earth Saver's Movement, Family Enrichment and Education, Sulong Edsa, Teodora, Power Foundation, St. Thomas More and Associates, Concerned Women of the Philippines, Sword of Gideon and others.

The pro-administration Lakas-NUCD-UMDP coalition yesterday disputed the opposition claim that it would win a 7-6 victory in the May 14 elections, with the bulk of the votes coming from Mindanao.

Lakas executive director Joey Rufino said the opposition has no right to claim a sweep in Mindanao as the so-called Erap fever has turned sour for the people in the South.

"They are dreaming," he said in a statement.

Vice President and Lakas president Teofisto Guingona said the PPC has started to reclaim the island of Mindanao from the opposition, which has claimed it as "Erap Land."

Vowing a 13-0 sweep for the administration, Guingona said the PPC has started to solidify its forces during the past two weeks of campaigning in Mindanao.

"The people of Mindanao were the actual victims of the millions of bullets that were fired in that futile war and this they now fully realize," Guingona said.

Metro poor will vote Opposition–Angara

MOST of Metro Manila's working-class districts will vote for the opposition but some Luzon provinces may go for the administration, senatorial candidate Edgardo Angara said yesterday.

But based on the results of its own in-house survey, Angara claimed that the opposition has a "critical mass" in Metro Manila that would be enough to offset the People Power Coalition's lead in some Luzon provinces.

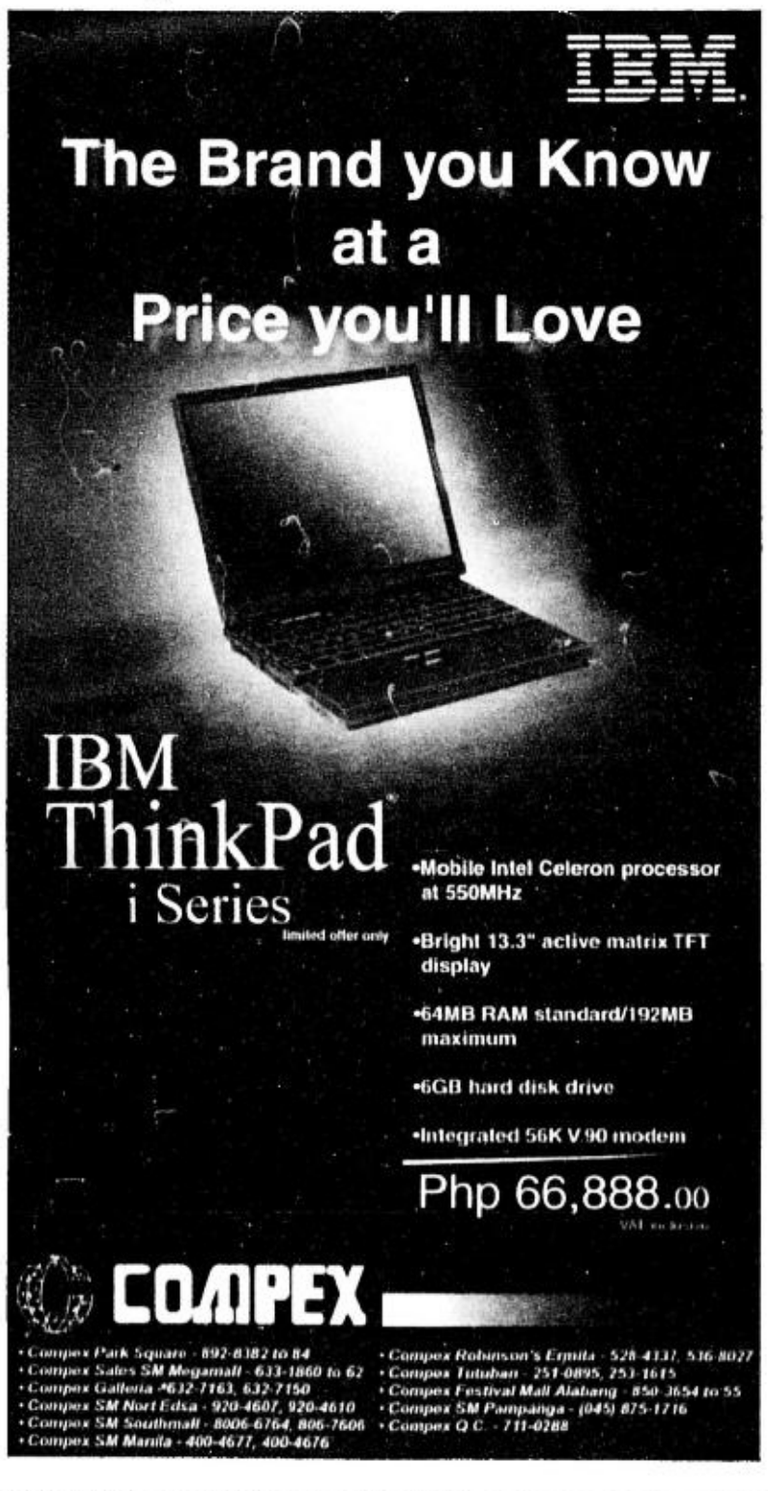
"These silent bailiwicks of the opposition in Metro Manila will be the big surprise of this senatorial election. This will be the X-factor for the political opposition," he said in a statement, but did not identify the areas concerned.

The opposition Puwersa ng Masa coalition has been focusing its campaign efforts in the Mindanao and Visayas provinces where they are said to enjoy substantial support.

But in Metro Manila where thousands of residents participated in the people power uprising that ousted former President Joseph Estrada last January, the opposition has opted for smaller mobilizations instead of rallies.

According to Angara, the People Power factor--which he said influenced the February Social Weather Station survey that showed the PPC winning 8-5—would die down.

"Now that the euphoria is fading, the realities at ground level can be accurately gauged," he said. ***Martin Marfil and Volt Contreras***



Ex-Gloria stude named NFA chief

A FORMER student of President Macapagal-Arroyo has been appointed administrator of the National Food Authority. Lawyer Anthony Abad, who wrote his graduate thesis on trade barriers in the international air transport industry with Ms Macapagal as his thesis adviser, formally took over the NFA last March 6.

According to an NFA press statement, Abad is a specialist in advanced taxation, trade and investment laws and international economics law.

Before his appointment, Abad was a commissioner of the Tariff Commission where he was responsible for the formulation of strategies to enhance fair competition in business.

He was also Special Adviser to the National Security Council and the Office of the President since 1993.

The new NFA administrator was an associate of Carpio, Villaraza and Cruz law offices and was a member of the Board of Editors of the Journal of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

ALL SET FOR ELEKSYON 2001 EDWIN BACASMAS

PDI and GMA-7 officers join hands after signing of memorandum of agreement for a joint coverage of the May 14 elections. (Story on Page 1)

Lacson warns vs 'Oplan Lucky Nine'

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

CEBU CITY—Former national police chief Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said yesterday the administration has launched "Oplan Lucky Nine" to demolish the candidacies of opposition senatorial bets who are making a strong showing against the candidates of the People Power Coalition.

In an interview with local radio stations, Lacson said he had in his possession a document detailing the smear job the administration is plotting against nine opposition candidates led by former first lady, Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, and himself.

Lacson said recent allegations linking him to the disappearance of PR man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and Angelito Sy, a Chinese-Filipino businessman, were part of Oplan Lucky Nine.

Lacson said the administration's obsession with winning all 13 Senate seats in the May 14 elections has warped its sense of fair play.

"We have the document. *Na-recover yung* document showing that there's really this move to demolish certain candidates because they are obsessed with a 13-0 victory in the May 14 polls," Lacson said.

Lacson said he will identify the people behind the smear campaign and present the document in his possession to the media over the weekend.

He said that based on the document, he would next be charged with involvement in alleged anomalies in the PNP Foundation.

"Well, this early I would like to address that particular issue about the PNP Foundation, which the PNP really has no hand in managing. It is a purely civilian sector-initiated and managed foundation. But they are going to make an issue out of it," Lacson said.

On Thursday, Mary Ong, a former agent of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force which Lacson also headed, linked the latter and several subordinates to the disappearance of Sy in May 2000.

Ong, known by her aliases Rosebud and Mata Hari, had earlier filed 10 cases against Lacson and his men with the Ombudsman for their alleged involvement in murder, kidnap for ransom and other crimes involving other Chinese and Chinese-Filipino businessmen and drug traffickers.

Yesterday, Ong added at least three more Chinese-Filipinos to the list of those allegedly kidnapped and executed by the PAOCTF.

Ong said Lacson, who resigned as national police chief after Estrada was ousted from the presidency and is now running for senator in the latter's party, knew of the kidnappings.

Earlier, Ong said Lacson also knew about the disappearance of Sy, president of World Balance Philippines, a shoe company, who was reportedly moonlighting as an interpreter for the PNP Narcotics Group.

The three new cases are reportedly being investigated by the NBI Special Action Unit headed by Edmund Arugay and the Anti-Organized Crime Division led by Samuel Fiji.

One of the cases was the abduction in 1998 of 24-year-old businessman Calvin Wong from a hotel in Ermita by a PAOCTF team, Ong said.

She said the PAOCTF later killed Wong after he revealed what he knew about a shabu factory in Quezon City. She said she knew about Wong since she was part of the PAOCTF team that picked him up.

"I was one of those who participated in the abduction of Wong and the two others," she said. Ong did not identify the two other alleged victims, however.

Aside from Lacson, facing charges filed by Ong are Police Director Reynaldo Acop, Sr. Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, Sr. Supt. John Campos, Chief Supt. Francisco Zubia, Supt. Francisco Villaroman, Insp. Cesar Aquino, Sr. Insp. Avelino Abogado, Sr. Insp. Julius Mana, SPO1 Danilo Castro and SPO1 Cris Mathay.

Reyes leaves behind deeply divided Navy

BY CARLITO PABLO

ON THE eve of his retirement as Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, Gen. Angelo Reyes will be leaving behind a navy deeply divided by the recent relief of reformist Rear Admiral Guillermo Wong as flag officer in command.

On one side of the divide are the 8,000-strong combat-tested Marines whose leaders called for the ouster of Wong after he had publicly berated some of them for alleged involvement in the anomalous purchase of arms and equipment.

Arrayed against them are the main Navy units, including the Philippine Fleet and the elite Special Warfare Group, which have voiced support for Wong's crusade to cleanse the Navy, to which the Marines belong, as well the entire military establishment of unscrupulous officers who put personal profit above the lives of their men.

In a recent speech before the Marine corps, Commandant Maj. Gen. Librado Ladia said he has "personally thanked" General Reyes "for believing in us."

Ladia urged Marines to "have trust in your leaders—officers and non-commissioned officers--as they are men enough to be called Marines."

"As everyone is liable to commit mistakes, trust that we are also men enough to be responsible for our actions," Ladia said.

Apparently alluding to Reyes' decision to back the Marines in their row with Wong, Ladia said "the sad experience we had has proven once more that Marines stand by what is right."

But if Wong has lost the support of the Marines, he has clearly won over the rest of the Navy.

In a letter, the officers, enlisted men and civilian employees of the Philippine Fleet said they "zealously support" Wong's quest for reforms as he has "touched the hearts and minds of our sailors and countrymen."

"In this light, many of your sailors, officers and enlisted personnel have resolved to continue to nurture the seeds that you have planted about honesty, truthfulness, professionalism, competence, discipline, patriotism and responsibility in the military service," the letter from the Fleet said.

In its letter to Wong, the Headquarters Service Force based at Sangley Point, Cavite wished that he would remember not that his term was cut short, but rather "that it was necessary to unmask a social disease that has strangled us."

In its own message, the Headquarters Patrol Force told Wong the issue was not that his controversial Feb. 15 speech humiliated the Marines.

"The issue was not this pricking and bawling out but rather the (officers') involvement in anomalous transactions and that it must refrain from continuing to do so," the letter said.

For its part, the Headquarters Assault Craft Force saluted Wong for being "unmindful of becoming unpopular or even risking his career as a fighting navy man" in order to institute reforms.

"We believe that your vision for an honest, credible, trustworthy and professional Navy is slowly coming into shape," the unit said.

The Naval Air Group said, "The crusade must go through despite the many odds."

"We have to rid our midst of misfits," the group said in its letter of "unconditional support" to Wong.

Wong relinquished his command of the Navy on March 1 rather than accept a lower post offered him by Reyes.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has offered him an ambassadorial posting which he is reportedly inclined to accept.

Wong had questioned before Marine officers the disappearance of P7.2 million worth of assault rifles, the procurement of P3.8 million worth of inferior Kevlar helmets and the alleged misuse of P65 million intended for the transfer of Marine headquarters from Fort Bonifacio to Ternate, Cavite.

84 cops fly to East Timor for UN duty

EIGHTY-FOUR Philippine National Police personnel flew to East Timor early yesterday to join the six-country United Nations peacekeeping force in the fledgling island-nation.

Acting PNP chief Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza formally sent off the 84 policemen in Camp Crame rites Thursday.

The group will be joining the sixth batch of the Civilian Police (CivPol) under the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET).

Mendoza said the deployment of the PNP personnel was a Philippine government commitment to support UN peacekeeping and rehabilitation efforts in the strife-torn former province of Indonesia.

The UN had asked for Filipino policemen to comprise the peacekeeping force in East Timor, which gained its independence from Indonesia after an August 1999 referendum.

The PNP contingent is led by Supt. Renato F. Heredia and includes 66 commissioned officers and 18 non-commissioned officers.

They will serve a one-year tour of duty with UNTAET.

Supt. Rodrigo P. de Gracia said the Filipino contingent will enforce local laws, maintain order and assume other functions like traffic management, investigation and general public safety.

The group will replace last year's batch of 84 PNP personnel led by Supt. Buenaventura Plantado who arrived in the country last night on a chartered flight.

RP Embassy staff in US question 2 appointments

CAREER employees of the Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C. are restive over two political appointments which some Embassy staff members said were made through intense lobbying by persons close to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

A ranking Embassy officer said the appointments of Jose Maria Ebro III and Victor Gosiengfiao are causing demoralization among career embassy officials.

The two, said the officer who asked not to be identified, are protégés of former Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo, who had been appointed by Ms Macapagal as one of her investment ambassadors.

One of the appointees, Ebro, is dropping the name of Evangeline Lourdes "Luli" Arroyo, the President's daughter, to hang on in the Embassy.

Ebro, the sources said, befriended the young Arroyo when the President's daughter was still studying in Georgetown.

Ebro and Gosiengfiao were appointed by then acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Lauro Baja at the behest of Romulo, said the Embassy sources.

But since Vice President Teofisto Guingona had been appointed foreign affairs secretary, the appointments of Ebro and Gosiengfiao should be reconsidered, the sources said.

Also, the sources added, Embassy personnel are questioning the prolonged stay of Ebro and Gosiengfiao in the Embassy as political appointees since they have been there for six years already.

The Embassy personnel said six years is the maximum tour of duty of diplomatic personnel.

Under Department of Foreign Affairs rules, diplomatic personnel assigned abroad should return to the home office after six years and serve in Manila for three years before they could be re-deployed abroad.

Ebro and Gosiengfiao, said the sources, "hibernated" for a year and a half during the term of Ernesto Maceda as Philippine ambassador to the US.

They resurfaced when Joseph Estrada was ousted as President and Ms Macapagal took over.

The Embassy personnel also questioned the granting of the title "ministers" to Ebro and Gosiengfiao.

The source said before a diplomatic officer is designated as minister, he should first pass through career stages.

Embassy personnel said that all it took for Ebro and Gosiengfiao were "political connections and this is again all what it will take for them to be reappointed as foreign affairs advisers."

Search for outstanding journalists launched

DO you have a favorite print or broadcast journalist? Does he display the qualities of a professional journalist such as insight, independence and integrity? If yes, you may nominate him to The Search for Outstanding Journalists (TOJ) Awards sponsored by the Metrobank Foundation Inc. and the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC).

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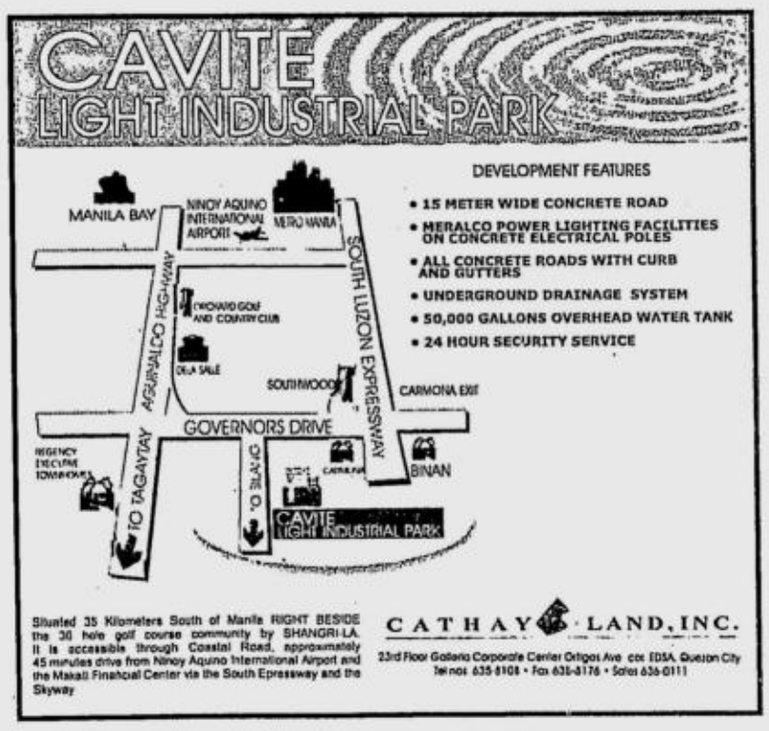
Nomination forms are now at Metrobank branches or at the Awards secretariat c/o AIJC with telephone numbers 725-4227, 725-4228 and 724-4564. Interested parties may also visit the AIJC homepage at www.asianjournalism.com.ph or send e-mail at aijcmla@info.com.ph. Deadline for nomination is on March 15, 2001.

Andres burial

LILIAN A. Andres of Naguilian, La Union, died on March 4. She is survived by her mother, Lilia A. Andres, brothers and sisters. Her body lies at 1104 Cabaritan Sur, Naguilian, La Union. Interment is scheduled today, March 10, at the Liwac Cemetery, Naguilian, La Union.



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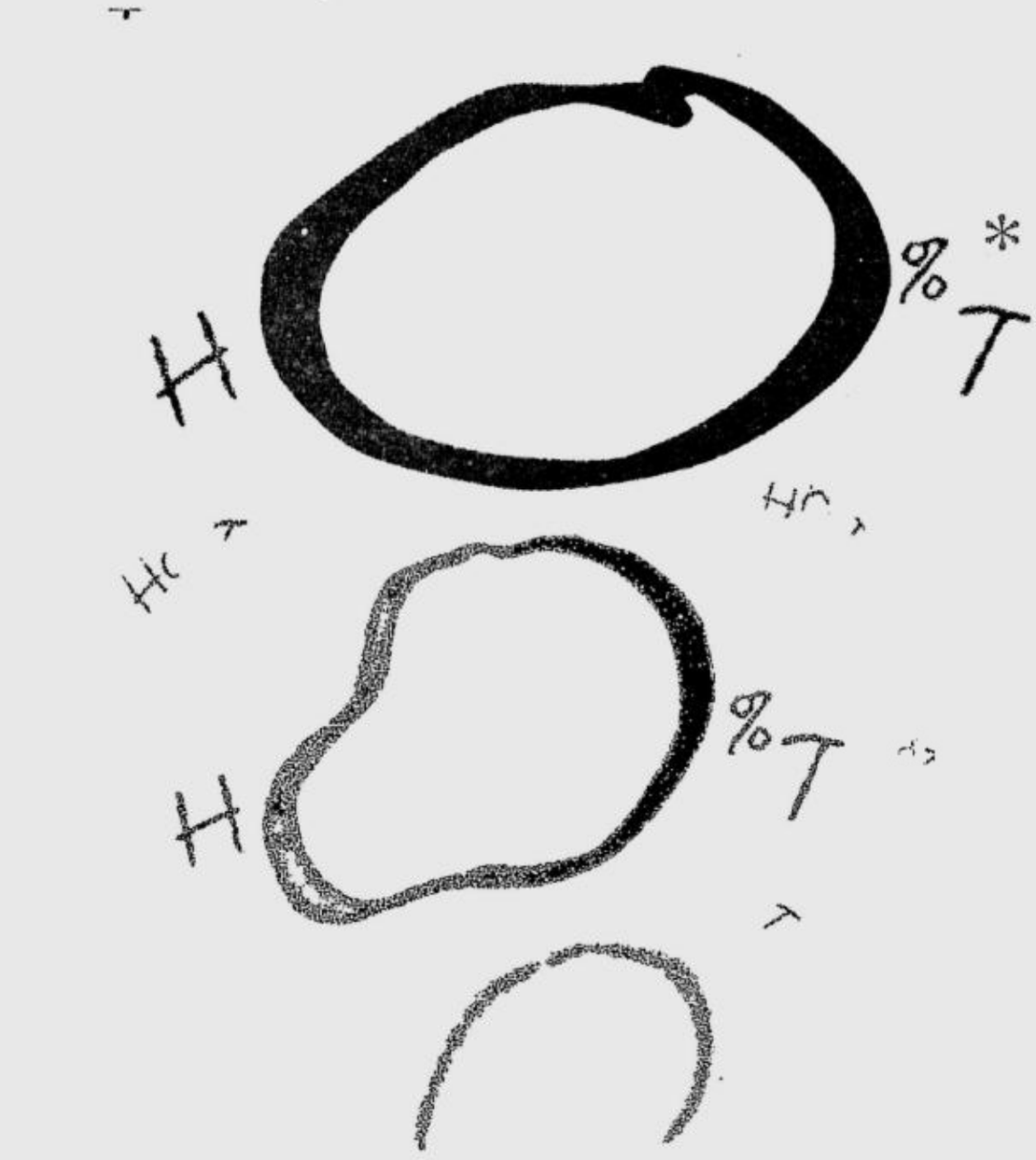

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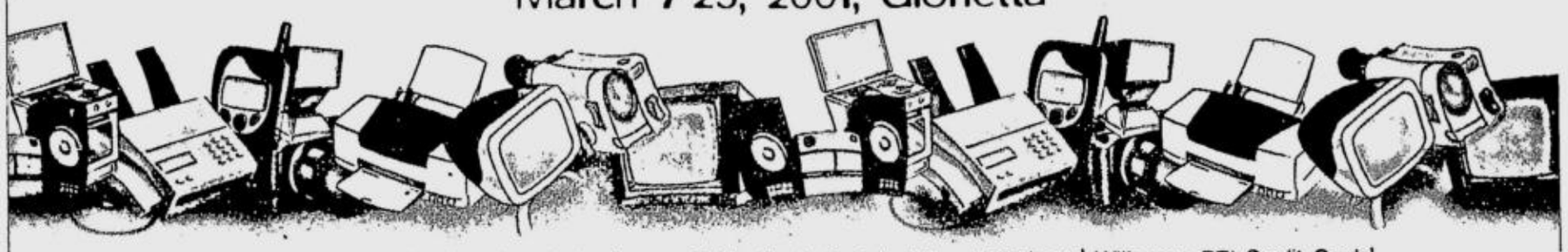

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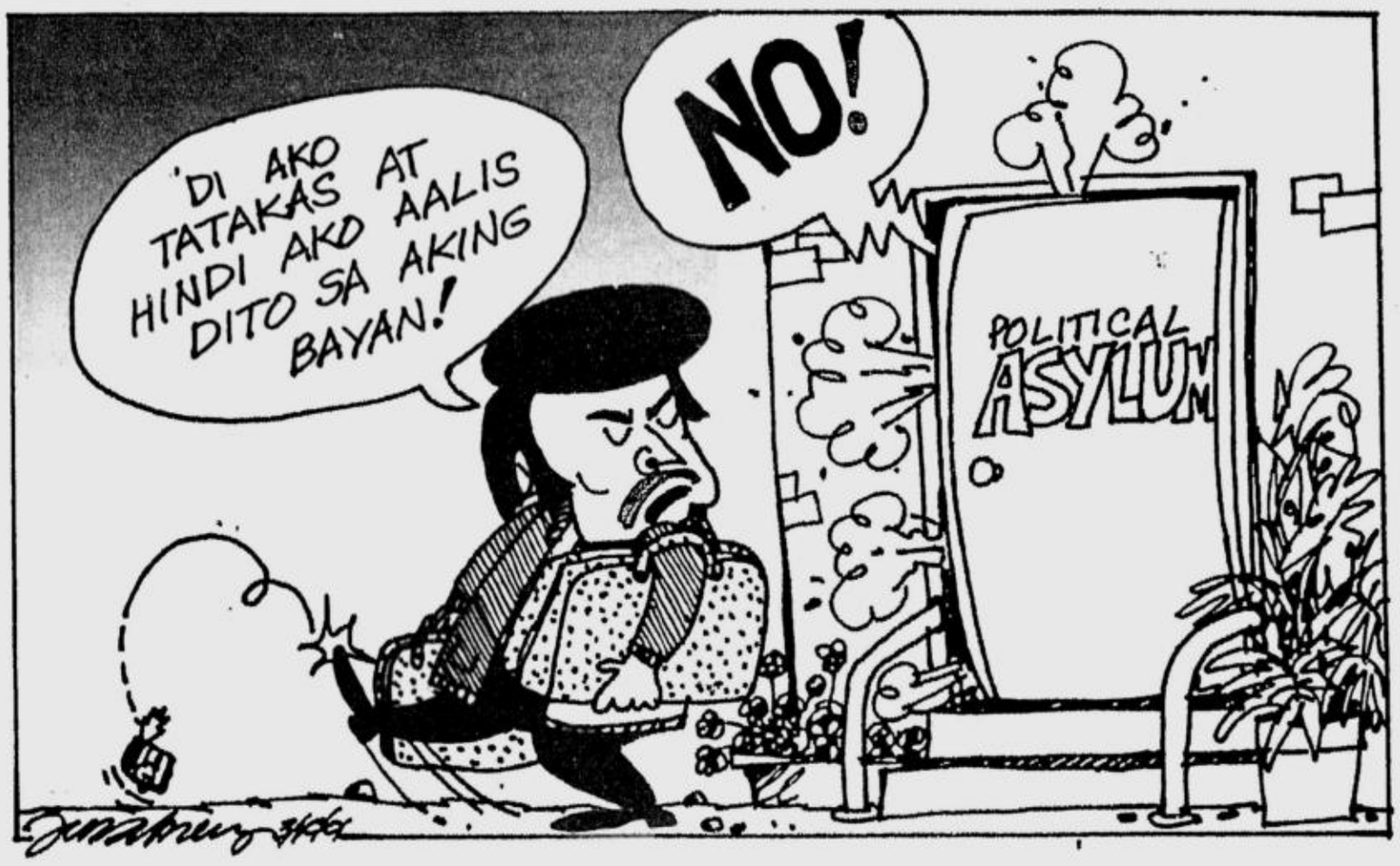

Look who's talking

GOVERNOR Rafael Buenaventura of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has resisted calls for his resignation from Representatives Joker Arroyo and Oscar Moreno on the grounds that he allegedly provided insider information allowing deposed President Estrada to withdraw P143 million from Urban Bank a day before the Bangko Sentral shut the bank. Buenaventura has maintained that the Bangko Sentral is an independent body, and his tenure, which ends in 2005, is not tied to the life of any administration.

EDITORIAL

The Bangko Sentral Act does plate the central bank with the armor of independence from political authority, but Buenaventura has been less than firm in asserting its independence. He was identified closely with the deposed Estrada administration, supporting it with currency stabilizing measures, and painting a rosy picture of the monetary situation when the peso came under heavy siege as a result of the crisis of confidence in Estrada's presidency.

In a speech to the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines on Wednesday, Buenaventura gave an account of how narrowly the country averted a financial meltdown during the previous administration. He said the country might have had to declare a debt moratorium if the crisis had not ended with the ouster of Estrada.

"Our access to credit had already been cut off in December," he said. "Banks were no longer willing to increase their exposure in the Philippines because the fear was that we would have a violent transition...We had a buffer but sooner or later we could have run out of that. Okay, we had $11 billion in net international reserves, but every month you could no longer renew the credit line...There were lots of sleepless nights."

These were not the things he told the public during the crisis. He hid the grave nature of the monetary situation. He joined the chorus of officials who declared that the depreciation of the peso was due mainly to external factors, including high interest rates in the United States and the strength of the dollar. When he was singing the tune of the Estrada administration, it was hard to differentiate between him and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla. Their explanations were so homogeneous that many suspected that Buenaventura must have forgotten the independence of the Bangko Sentral or he considered himself a member of the past administration's team of economic managers.

In his post-Estrada statements, Buenaventura now concedes that political factors—i.e., lack of confidence in Estrada's governance and competence in economic management—were responsible for the financial crisis.

The perception in the business community was that while Buenaventura used monetary instruments—such as interest rates and outright defending the peso from speculative attacks—to defend the peso from speculative attacks, he was also trying to shore up the Estrada administration. Indeed, when Estrada's finance secretary, Jose Pardo, considered resignation in early November when the government was hit by Cabinet defections and secession from the government coalition, Buenaventura fiddled with the idea of resigning.

After the removal of Estrada, Buenaventura suddenly remembered that the word independence existed in the Bangko Sentral charter. Some in the business community, including the bankers' association, expressed concern over Arroyo and Moreno's demand that Buenaventura resign. They argued that the intention of the Bangko Sentral charter is to have a strong central bank governor who is not an apologist for a sitting administration but who can take action without considering the wishes of the powers that be. When we speak of a strong governor, we have in mind the chair of the US Federal Reserve or the president of the European Bank or of Germany's Federal Bundesbank. The exercise of autonomy by these institutions forced political authority to bend their financial policies to the dictates of independent governors. Apparently, Buenaventura does not fit into the mold of strong governors.

While Buenaventura invokes the principle of independence of the Bangko Sentral, his past actions do not show he has lived up to this principle. He can't justify his continued stay in the bank with a concept he failed to defend. Buenaventura was Estrada's classmate in the Ateneo High School. This is, however, not the reason for the two congressmen's call for his resignation. The most important reason is that by his actions, he has damaged the independence of the Bangko Sentral.

A true servant of the people

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

YESTERDAY was the 110th birth anniversary of Dr. Jose P. Laurel, who devoted much of his life to the service of the Filipino people. The date was commemorated at the Lyceum of the Philippines, which he founded, at a convocation where Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste was the guest speaker. There were also floral offerings in his memory at the Tanauan cemetery in Batangas, with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo among those who remembered.

As chair of the Jose P. Laurel Memorial Foundation, I have the principal duty to propagate and perpetuate appreciation of the achievements of this great man who deserves the nation's emulation. It is to me a labor of love. I am especially anxious to emphasize his virtues upon the youth, many of whom tend to view him only as a disembodied historic figure. Unlike their elders, they have not directly benefited from his services both as a public official and a private citizen.

I had the privilege of knowing Dr. Laurel personally and even of working with him during the fledgling days of the Lyceum. I was a struggling young lawyer then and served as assistant to Dr. Sotero H. Laurel, who was the executive secretary. The Old Man, as many of us called the senator (although he was just in his 60s at that time) reported regularly at the Lyceum as so did Sen. Pedro Sabido, who was the treasurer, and Sen. Claro M. Recto, who was the dean of the college of law.

One of my duties then was to update the Old Man on the operations of the school that we were still wet-nursing. He was a "hands-on" administrator and spurned the use of memos. I remember that time when I informed him that a professor in Constitutional Law had asked to be relieved, leaving his students in the lurch. When he asked who was handling the class in the meantime, I said no successor had as yet been assigned although I had taken it upon myself to meet the students pending the choice of a permanent replacement. Dr. Laurel made an immediate decision. He appointed me to take over the class and thus started my 30-year teaching career in Constitutional Law.

Of all our outstanding public officials, no one has served with distinction in all the three major departments of our government as Jose P. Laurel.

He was the interior secretary who sparked the Cabinet Crisis of 1923, when he resigned in protest against the reinstatement by Governor General Leonard Wood of a crooked detective Laurel had dismissed. During a more poignant period, he was burdened with the presidency of the Philippines that no one wanted. He boldly used it to soften the impact of the Japanese occupation and was later pilloried as a collaborator. A grateful nation was later to vindicate his name and restore his honor.

As a member of the Supreme Court, he wrote eloquently of the virtues of democracy and the operation of the republican system. His trenchant decisions dating back to pre-war years are still studied in our law schools today. His definition of social justice has become a classic every law student is required to know by heart. His description of the doctrine of separation of powers cannot be excelled for its lucidity and imagery. No wonder President Manuel L. Quezon, whom he did not hesitate to criticize where others were less daring, declared, "Justice Laurel wields the most powerful pen in our Supreme Court."

One of the prominent framers of the Commonwealth Constitution, Laurel was also an outstanding member of the Senate before and after the Pacific War. As Senate President Quezon's majority floor leader, he is remembered particularly for his strong advocacy of women's rights. After the controversial 1949 presidential election that many say he won, he returned to the Senate as the topnotcher in the 1953 elections. It was during this last term that he introduced the Noli-Fili Bill, which he and Senator Recto defended with their usual panache.

Musing over the record of this great man, I hesitate to compare him with some of our so-called leaders today. Laurel stands on the same level as our other illustrious legislators like Quezon, Sergio Osmeña Sr., Manuel A. Roxas, Recto, Lorenzo M. Tañada, Juan Sumulong and other distinguished lawmakers who graced the Senate with their brilliance and dedication. These eminent statesmen must be looking dismally upon the likes of many present-day officials who have cheapened their positions with their incompetence and cupidity.

Last week, the apologists of Sen. Gregorio Honasan took me to task for "shooting off my mouth" in criticizing their do-nothing boss. They insisted he has been busy with "committee work"—the same excuse they gave me two years ago. I said it before and I'll say it again, "Big deal." The other senators are also busy in their committees but still manage to deliberate with each other on the Senate floor. Apparently, Colonel Honasan's forte is not parliamentary debate. His loyal employees, and his wife as well, also enumerate all of seven bills they say he authored during his term of six years. At the rate of 1.16 bills a year—wow.

I hope that when the Filipino people go to the polls next May, they will assess the various candidates by the high standard of service exemplified by Jose P. Laurel and his peers during our honorable past. We have had enough of the present crop of public officials who lord it over instead of serving the people and are motivated more by private gain than by the public welfare.

We have no need for officials who slumber at public expense, awakening only to seek another term that they can also snore away. We have no need for officials like the Craven Eleven in the Senate who now ask to be rewarded for conspiring to suppress the truth about their fallen idol's incredible plunder. We have no need for the presumptuous dancers and crooners and newscasters and clowns who think that cosmetic makeup can make up for their disgraceful lack of credentials for public office.

Let us go back to the days of Jose P. Laurel, when public office was really a public trust and was discharged not for personal vainglory but with the altruism of the true servant of the people.

An anarchy of families

COMMENTARY

P.M. Lustre Jr.

THE WAY things are shaping up, there will be an "anarchy of families," when candidates present themselves to voters in the May 14 midterm polls. The wife or son of a governor versus the wife of a congressman, the son of a senator versus the brother of a congressman, the son of a city mayor versus the nephew of a congressman—these are just some of the match-ups that voters will see in the coming elections.

From all indications, political dynasty building is here to stay despite the explicit constitutional provision banning it. Thanks to the lack of political will to enforce this ban, old political families will again be able to demonstrate their clout in another demonstration of what has been termed as a "circulation of the elites."

Section 26 of Article II says, "The State shall guarantee equal access to opportunities for public service and prohibit political dynasties as may be defined by law." The constitutional intent is very clear: political dynasty-building is banned to democratize the nation's political system.

Right now no political family can be faulted or accused of violating the constitutional ban. The reason is that Congress has yet to enact an enabling law that would put flesh to the constitutional prohibition and define what constitutes political dynasty-building.

There were a number of initiatives to put this constitutional ban into effect since Congress reconvened in 1988, but they all did not prosper. There is only one explanation for the death of all anti-political dynasty bills: Congress is—and has always been—a center of political dynasties. Many lawmakers are members (or have always been closely identified with) of the old political families. Hence, it would be an act of self-immolation for lawmakers to pass any bill implementing the ban on political dynasty-building. Political self-preservation assumes greater importance than the constitutional mandate.

Political observers say the anti-political dynasty provision of the 1987 Constitution is actually a dead law that can never be implemented. The participation of political families in the electoral process is part of the country's political culture. Legislating against their participation would be tantamount to killing the political culture. It is like prohibiting people from taking a bath or having sex, the argument goes.

Framers of the 1987 Constitution argued differently. Retired Supreme Court Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma, who chaired the Constitutional Commission, says the framers of the charter included the anti-political dynasty provision in reaction to the concentration of economic and political power of a few powerful families.

The continuing hold on power of some 60 to 80 political families has institutionalized various political ills like private armies, vote buying and patronage politics. Qualified people cannot take part in legislation or administration because those political families effectively block their participation.

This political aberration exists due to the country's paternalistic and personality-oriented political culture. The previous presidents—Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada—obviously did not pursue any steps to remedy this political malady because they had close relatives holding elective posts. But President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo can put this constitutional prohibition into operation. But first she can show her seriousness by prohibiting members of her own family from running for any elective office.

Such prohibition would be no different from the executive order which she earlier issued banning her relatives from engaging in business transactions or deals with the government. If she wants to stop graft in her administration, she should also stop political dynasty-building, which also leads to graft.

If the President would sacrifice her own relatives by stopping them from running for public office, other politicians would have one reason less for not following what the Constitution says. These politicians cannot afford to be selfish and self-centered, when no less than the President is showing the way.

President Macapagal should sacrifice her son Mikey, an aspiring movie actor, to put some sanity into the confusing world of Philippine politics. Mikey Arroyo can always carve another career outside politics.

P.M. Lustre Jr. is a freelance journalist.

'Velarde' table now serves as GMA's dining table

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WHAT happened to some 546 majestic trees lining Quezon Avenue in Quezon City, which would have been cut down had civic-minded citizens not intervened, is a prime example of what could happen if the media, the government and the private sector join hands in responding to an environmental disaster. It's a good lesson for the future. Under the original plan for the construction of the Edsa-Quezon Avenue interchange, 192 of these trees would have been cut, 248 balled and transplanted elsewhere, and 106 retained. Among those trees, 70 are mahogany from 50 to 90 years old.

I recall the cutting down of the majestic narra trees in Camp Aguinaldo shortly after we moved out of there in the mid-1990s. That was really tragic. Luckily, our environmentalist colleague, Neal Cruz, blew the whistle in time on this interchange project. Neal's SOS prompted Isabela Rep. Heherson Alvarez, who chairs the Globe Legislators' Organization for a Balanced Environment and the Earthsavers Movement, to call up his former House colleague, new Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong, to spare the trees. Alvarez then appealed to tree lovers for help, quickly putting together a rescue program called "Adopt-A-Tree, Protect the Metro Manila Parks."

* * *

Datumanong immediately assured Alvarez that he is "pro-life" and that he wouldn't allow those trees to be "massacred." The DPWH boss assigned Undersecretary Bonoan to meet with Alvarez to plan how to save those trees and in two weeks' time, a memorandum was signed in the presence of President Macapagal calling for a combination of balling and transplanting of 440 trees and retaining the rest. Just as important, the President bared a "paradigm shift" in the government's thinking, making it imperative to marry the environmental factor with the need for infrastructure. A media eco-watch in the print and broadcast industry was put up to monitor this.

Meanwhile, a distribution system has been set up by the NGOs for Integrated Protected Areas (Nipa), Alvarez's Earthsavers and the MMDA-DENR to have the transplanted trees distributed to various parks, establishments such as the Manila Memorial Park and NGOs. One idea: Perhaps the Fort Bonifacio commercial center could use many of those adult trees so that it wouldn't look so barren while its planted trees are still growing.

* * *

It was a lovely evening at Malacañang last Thursday, when the President honored the 10 senators who had voted to open that second envelope last Jan. 16. However, three of them were absent: Vice President Tito Guingona, Senate President Nene Pimentel and Sen. Serge Osmeña. But in her speech, Ms Macapagal deliberately mentioned only the names of the four People Power Coalition reelectionists—Franklin Drilon, Juan Flavier, Ramon Magsaysay and Serge—"so that the voters wouldn't be confused."

* * *

As expected, the guests were drawn mainly from the crowd that braved the high drama as well as the tedium of the Senate impeachment proceedings, except that this time, we all came in our Sunday best, and not the rugged wear of the impeachment watch. But all of us agreed that receptions in the Palace have become much simpler than in past regimes, following the simple lifestyle set by the occupant and her call for austerity (which is laudable, considering the P225 billion budgetary deficit which Ms Macapagal is trying to cut to P145 billion). The invitations no longer come in the expensive gold-bordered linen. Guests come with minimal jewelry and simple outfits, just like the hostess, one reason being that dinners are set much earlier now. For last Thursday's dinner, however, Italian-trained restaurateur Margarita Araneta-Fores, daughter of Baby and Raul Fores, laid out a simple but elegant table featuring Tuscan-style tomato soup, balsamico adobo with roasted chestnuts and whipped Laguna cheese.

* * *

Prominent among the guests were four ladies who, day in and day out, watched the impeachment proceedings. These were the Delgado sisters, daughters of the late Dr. Jose Ma. Delgado: Tessie Villonco, Nenita Banzon, Pilar Garcia and Mila Enage. Huddled in their woolen shawls in those cold December and January weeks, the sisters, in their early and mid-70s, displayed admirable militancy. In fact, in the final week, a brother-in-law, Philip Enage, husband of Mila, lay dying in the hospital, but the sisters, except for the wife, didn't miss a session, reasoning that "Philip would understand." During Philip's wake, they arranged schedules so that they could be at the Senate, and after he was buried, they pulled along their widowed sister, too, arguing that it was the best way to get over her bereavement.

I have known the Delgado sisters since childhood, when we were neighbors of their brother, Dr. Jesus Delgado, whose children were our playmates. I asked the sisters how come they are so militant, and they replied with a laugh, "It must be the blood of Gen. Gregorio del Pilar." They trace their roots to the hero.

* * *

I had the good fortune of sitting at the same table with three ladies who were once tenants at Malacañang: Vicky Quirino-Delgado, daughter of President Quirino; Ruby Roxas-Roxas, daughter of President Roxas; and Rosie Osmeña-Valencia, daughter of President Osmeña. These former first daughters were regular Senate habitues during the impeachment trial. They were also at the House gallery on that fateful night when Speaker Manny Villar railroaded the impeachment resolution. Last Thursday they were in a reminiscing mood and they noted that all of them had occupied the same bedroom. They said Imelda Marcos completely changed the face of the Palace.

Vicky Delgado recalled that she was only 16 when her widowed father went to Malacañang, where she served as his official hostess. Noticing the portrait of President Magsaysay hanging on the wall, she recalled that she gifted him with the original, painted by Garcia Llamas, which is now the best known portrait of RM.

* * *

After the dinner, the President left for a rally while a big group of us followed First Gentleman Mike Arroyo into the private chambers. Mike said he had gained 15 lb while his wife lost an equivalent number of pounds. The star piece of furniture in the family quarters is the round mahogany table on which Joseph Estrada affixed the signature of "Jose Velarde" to Equitable PCI Bank documents in the presence of Clarissa Ocampo. We approached that table with mixed feelings, knowing how it helped bring down the Estrada administration. Today it serves as the dining table of the First Family. The former bedroom of the first daughters is now the bedroom of the Arroyo couple, and Mike said that, save for a new toilet seat to accommodate his size, it had not been changed at all. The living quarters were fixed up by former First Lady Loi Ejercito. Adorning the walls are stylized portraits of all the former first ladies, painted by my good friend Lulu Coching-Rodriguez.

Voting 13-0

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE "13-0 MOVEMENT" is born. Meeting at the Club Filipino Friday, representatives of various civic and religious organizations resolved to work for the election of all the candidates on the People Power Coalition slate, saying differences with individual candidates should be subsumed for the greater cause that we fought for at Edsa.

Let me add here my own special "advocacies" for certain candidates on the PPC. First, of course, is that for Winnie Monsod, who I believe truly deserves to be in the Senate. Not just because she's a woman, though that's a value in and of itself, but also because she is a firm advocate of gender and development issues, and can use her talent, intelligence and sharp powers of analysis to enrich the debates and legislative work in the Senate. To all those once-enamored of Miriam the Motormouth and her claims to superior intelligence and integrity, let me tell you that in Winnie you have the real thing. Years of interacting with her have convinced me she is a woman of substance and heart. As for integrity, her former colleagues in government attest that after official trips abroad, Winnie made it a point to return any excess amount from her allowance, a requirement often honored in the breach.

Reelectionist Sen. Jun Magsaysay is another PPC candidate worthy of special mention. Many have criticized him for being a "political butterfly" because of the many times he has changed parties. But another view could be that he is simply too independent-minded to be boxed in by partisan loyalties when these no longer reflect his personal values. I believe he deserves to be returned to the Senate if only for his courage when, in the middle of the Senate blue ribbon committee hearings, he expressed disgust at how some of his colleagues were abusing their position to obscure the truth and promptly left the ruling coalition. For someone who is supposedly on the lookout only for political survival, that was a most admirable and courageous thing to do.

* * *

REP. Bobby Tañada is another PPC candidate worth singling out. He bears not only a distinguished name and nationalist legacy, but also a sterling record, marked by outspokenness on issues of substance, advocacy for the poor and the marginalized, defense of human rights, and above all upholding the nation's interest over that of foreigners'.

As someone who supposedly belongs to the "successor generation" of under-50s, I'm also strongly batting for Kiko Pangilinan and Rep. Ralph Recto. Some people I've talked with are of the opinion that the two are "*hilaw*" or too raw for membership in the illustrious Senate. (Though what's so illustrious about a chamber that accommodates a faded action star, a comedian and a basketball player is beyond me.) But when will these two promising politicians ever be given the chance to learn? I believe the Senate needs their youth to rejuvenate itself. It's also time to bring our political development, stunted by decades of martial law, in step with the times and the issues and concerns of today's generation.

He doesn't really need an endorsement, figuring pretty high in the surveys, but reelectionist Sen. Johnny Flavier surely gets my vote. True, people in the health field have expressed disappointment that as a senator, he didn't prove to be quite the magnetic spokesperson for health issues that he was as health secretary. Still, maybe this time around he will use his charisma and common sense to bear on legislation and discussion of health matters. I am glad the Couples for Christ, for one, have decided to throw their support behind him despite their disagreement over reproductive health issues. And if it's any help, popular Sen. Loren Legarda says that she is personally campaigning for Flavier, her "best friend" in the Senate.

* * *

SOMEONE recently told me that she was skeptical about a 13-0 PPC win, claiming this was not only a statistical improbability, but also not healthy for democracy. "Every administration needs an opposition," she said.

In reply, I asked: "So, who will you drop, and who among the Erap forces and independents deserves to replace him or her?" She had no answer.

Yes, who among the Puwersa ng Masa or the independents has a better claim to a Senate seat than any of the 13 candidates of the People Power Coalition? To my mind, all 13 deserve to be in the Senate. Certainly, Joker Arroyo does, if only as a reward for a lifetime's career of championing unpopular causes and taking what seem to be foolhardy political risks. Reelectionists Frank Drilon and Serge Osmeña have acquitted themselves well in the Senate, and what we saw during the impeachment trial is but an indication of their hard work in the last three years. Manny Villar may seem to be banking on a single moment of glory, but he will bring to the Senate his experience as a legislator and successful entrepreneur.

Another "*balik-Senado,*" Ernesto Herrera, has been a brave and outspoken oppositionist, twitting the Erap administration long before it was popular to do so. Obet Pagdanganan is a long-time champion of local autonomy, equipped with daring ideas on how to change the political system. Lastly, Liwayway Chato will put her extensive knowledge as a former BIR commissioner to good use in legislation, the lack of effective tax laws and enforcement being one reason we are in this rut.

Count me in then for the "13-0 Movement."

* * *

ALERT readers might have noticed that Friday's column was a reprint. I'm still checking, but our proofreader says she might have highlighted the wrong date and sent the wrong column to be printed. So it was an accident. I just want to issue this clarification lest the Comelec, especially Commissioner Luz Tancangco, think I have it in for them and her, so much so that I would cause an old column on them to be reprinted. Still, the charges bear repeating, don't they?

'Guling-Guling,' 'basi,' 'dudol' and 'abel'

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE COW-DRAWN cart decorated with Indian mangoes, bananas, pineapples, coconuts, banana blossoms and ears of corn and moving roughly appeared to be in danger, we thought, of falling on our heads as it rattled along the streets of Paoay. There I was ensconced beside perennial optimist Ricky Jose, courtesy of Pepito Albert who was a no-show at the revival of *Guling-Guling*, the Ilocos Norte observance of Shrove Tuesday. Not that I minded, seeing as we were supposed to judge the best decorated houses in the vicinity of the church as part of the program of festivities. This gave me a chance to see old *abels* (Ilocano woven cloth), including a canopy under which women gave birth in the 1850s that participants utilized for decor. Ricky, who was in town for a meeting of the Laoag Museum, pointed out the best samples of textiles on display in the different houses and kept a running commentary as to who owned which ancestral home.

We were informed that *Guling-Guling* is an Ilocano word meaning to mark, to smear or make a sign. Earlier, Paoay Mayor Nenuca Evangelista had indeed marked our forehead with wet rice flour. This secular symbol contrasts with the ashes of Ash Wednesday setting the boundaries of church and state.

It is said that the Augustinians initiated the practice of *Guling-Guling* in the 16th century (I suppose for the same reason carnivals were celebrated as the last revels before the 40 days of Lent). It was also a thanksgiving for the harvest and for any special favors granted by the Lord.

The festival of Shrove Tuesday was a day of revelry and fun. Paoayeños would don their native *abel* finery and their best jewelry to dance in the streets of the town such folk dances as *jota, pandanggo, curacha* or dances that spoke of their occupations like *agab-abel*. The event we witnessed was an effort by the local government to revive a time-honored tradition and focus attention on the tourism potential of Ilocos Norte.

Hours before, the barrio people had finished cooking over a hot *kawa* a native delicacy called *dudol* or *binugbog* (rice flour, coconut milk, sugarcane juice and anise) that is given to visitors and participants in the parade and offered with a cup of *basi* (sugarcane extract with *samak* plant).

After having done my best to judge the decors impartially, I was ready to take off for Sarrat to look for the catacombs and examine the garrote if it still existed, recalling that the last mention of it I found was in a publication of 1912. Unfortunately it was not to be since Pepito was also supposed to judge the street dance parade and he was nowhere in sight. So three o'clock found me on the upper terrace of the weaving center together with Margie Moran, Pablo Tariman and Ricky who was not a judge but patiently sat it out with us. I could hear Pablo chortling and kept wondering what he had for lunch, but I guess he's just naturally good-natured. I had unfortunately left my *kakanin* from the market at the hotel, consisting of a delicacy made of sesame seeds and some *sampaloc* preserves, and had to content myself with eating *ensaymada*, croissants and cinnamon rolls. After three hours, I felt like a blimp (and looked like one too) but we did render judgment on more than three dozen dance groups from as many barangays. It was six o'clock and the dancing continued in the plaza till late into the night.

Naturally I still had to get to Sarrat and managed to convince Margie and Ricky and Pablo that we all must see the church again. Needless to say, it was practically pitch black when we got there and it was a good thing that the parish priest, according to Ricky, had found a way to shoo away bats while Pablo went around the church clapping his hands, which I thought was a bit weird. It turned out he was checking the acoustics. It seems he intends to bring an orchestra and was looking for an appropriate venue.

In the meantime, Margie had the foresight to carry a flashlight and save our necks as we wandered around the ruins of the convent. I am sorry to report that despite the ghostly moonlight, there weren't any ghosts even in the so-called torture room that more likely was once the judge's chambers. Of course, I never got to see the catacombs.

It's a good thing for us that the Paoayeños decided to revive the *Guling-Guling* festival. Actually it wasn't dead, merely moribund since fewer and fewer people were participating in the ritual. The latest effort certainly yielded results and even young kids were out in the streets dancing.

Manila has not been so lucky, its *Carnaval* long dead and gone and many of its other customs and traditions have sadly faded away and lost their relevance. The old families that once opened their doors at fiesta time have moved on to more pleasant suburbs, leaving ancestral homes empty and silent, the feasts unattended.

What happens then to tradition? As you near the bridge to cross to Laoag, instead of the baroque splendor of its cathedral it's the ubiquitous sign of McDonald's that looms over the city and not far behind towers Jollibee. Can KFC be far behind?

For Duke

YOUNGBLOOD

Lisa S. Marfori Sobreviñas

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I'M sorry to hear that you pulled the trigger.

I never knew you personally, but I know who you were because you used to call my sister quite often. Sometimes I'd be the one to answer the phone and hand it to Sara who was waiting for your call.

I don't know you, your life, your story, the love you lost, your real reasons for committing suicide. Still I thought we were on the same boat—until you abandoned ship. I heard your Duchess left you, and the pain was too much for you to bear. So you decided to take your own life after a Saturday night date that went bad.

Tough, huh? Yeah, I know. My King broke up with me, too.

Hurt you a lot, didn't it? It must have. Did it hurt so much that at night, when you were left alone with your dark and gloomy thoughts, you ended up crying and crying and crying?

You could have been my friend. But even if we never got to know each other, perhaps the few exchanges of polite words we had were enough to teach me lessons that will last a lifetime.

I went to your wake the other night. My family and I were seated behind your mother. Your poor, fragile mother was crying in your lola's arms, her mother's arms. Did you see how much she suffered? How crushed she was by what you had done? How hurt, and sad, and lost?

But did you also see how your mother held on and tried so hard to remain strong by just praying and letting her tears flow down her smooth cheeks and giving people who condoled with her a sad smile? I wish you had your mother's strength.

I'm sorry to hear you're gone. I didn't really know you, but I wish I did. I could have told you things I'm learning now as I move on with my life after my King left me. I wish I could have told you that the pain of being left behind is bearable. I could have told you that you could have cried in the arms of people who loved you, like those who came to pay you their last respects.

I could have told you that though the world doesn't stop for your grief, you still could have shared your pain and misery with family and friends who would have stood by you. Yes, in spite of the cruelty with which life and your Duchess have treated you, there are people who would not have left you at a time of so much suffering and sadness.

I could have told you that it's okay to be angry because you've been left behind by the one you love. But I could have told you just as quickly that you mustn't allow yourself to be consumed by your anger. I could have told you to stay strong and move on with your life instead of wallowing in defeat.

If you had held on a bit longer, you would have learned that the anger and pain will go away sooner or later. They will be replaced by a profound silence in your troubled heart with occasional pangs of regret and sorrow. It's not so bad, Duke. It's nothing you couldn't have handled.

How I wish I could have told you that though some people you believe to love you (but whom you definitely love) can leave you, those who really do stay behind to dry your eyes and slowly rock you to a restful slumber.

Did you feel you were not worth the risk and the bother of loving? If only I could have asked you to trust me when I say there will always be at least one person, one true friend who will think you are worth it and will never let you go. It may not have been your Duchess; she would have been someone else, someone better.

Oh how you must have hurt a lot in your short lifetime. Did you go to bed at night crying till you fell asleep? Did you wake up mornings with swollen and bloodshot eyes? Did you ask God why He had abandoned you? Why people you love have to leave? Why it hurt so bad? Why? Why? Why?

Yes, Duke, the questions never end for those who continue to live and fight. They keep coming at me like the sharp, jagged memories of loved ones who've left me and yet will remain forever in my heart.

Maybe it's time for me to stop asking questions where there are no answers. Maybe it's time to let time heal me and find some peace in my heart, maybe even someone new. Someone who will not leave me, someone who will stand by me, someone who will fight for me and will want to keep me. Forever.

I'm sorry to hear you've left me behind. We could have helped heal each other's hurts. We could have been friends. I could have been the elder sister you never had. And you could have been the younger brother I never had. You'd be the Duke and I'd be Lisa, queen of the kingdom of broken yet mending and hopeful hearts.

You did not die in vain, Duke. I'll make sure of that. I'll tell your family that. Your sacrifice was not for nothing because you left a legacy behind despite your untimely departure. Because of you and the friendship we never had, I have learned to hold on and hang in there in spite of the great searing pain I am experiencing. You taught me that.

Nobody who first loves you, then leaves you and tells you you're not worthy after all is worth taking your own life for. Nothing is. Thank you for teaching me that. Thank you for reminding me to be strong in my faith in God even as I wither, weaker in body every day that passes by.

I'll hold on for you, Duke. For both of us. You gave up, and I surely will not. For you and me. And for all those people who truly love us and will always be with us, rooting for us and believing in us. This I promise you.

Have you met God? Did he sing you Streisand's song?

So much is there. Why let it go?
Why run away when what we have is so worth fighting for?
Why let it go?

I'm sorry you let go. You let go of your faith. You could have believed in second chances. That people who come and go in our lives just might eventually come back and stay for good. And even if they don't, God will never leave you empty.

But I won't let go, Duke. I'll hang in there. I'll stay on and be brave. And I'll remember you. Always. I'll remember how you touched my life just in time to save me. I'll remember how you made me a stronger person. I'll be strong for you, for me, for the family you left behind and for my own family which I'll forever love.

I'll finish your fight for you, Duke. Don't you worry. Just rest now in peace, in the arms of Kuya Jess. And please say a prayer for all of us down here once in a while, okay?

When we get to meet high up in the clouds one day, I just know in my heart that you'll be proud of me for facing life's toughest trials. I won't give up but please help me. I won't let go but please help me hold on.

Duke, when I get to finish my struggle in this ephemeral kingdom, I know you'll be happy that I didn't pull the trigger because of you. For you. And thanks to you.

Lisa S. Marfori Sobreviñas, is a freshman at the Ateneo de Manila University. She wrote this piece in memory of Duke Pizarro, another student at the Ateneo.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

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Competence over popularity

THE COMING election will still be a fight between popularity and ability. Which do you think will emerge as winner, popularity or competence?

Popularity, as we have observed and experienced in the past electoral exercises, is always very essential to a candidate's victory. We vote for a certain political candidate because we are familiar with him or her. We just look at one side of the candidate but we never give much attention to his or her ability or competence to perform the tasks attached to the position in case he or she gets elected. If we are asked why we are voting for this or that person, we simply say that we just feel like voting for him because we know him and we like him.

Now is the opportune time to change this mistaken concept. Or it may be too late. It is imperative that we have a deeper knowledge of the candidate's character, background and his overall personality. This election is not a popularity contest but a way of selecting and installing the right people who will occupy important government posts.

We need to ask ourselves questions such as: Why are these people running for public office? What are their motives or intentions? Are they really fit for the office they seek?

We must scrutinize each candidate we are considering. We should study very carefully our criteria for selection. We need to determine beforehand the candidates that we're going to vote.

Let's avoid impulse voting during the election on May 14. Our vote should be premeditated or planned and not hurried. It would be better if we bring a list of candidates whom we have considered or chosen already so as to prevent instant or last-minute voting which always leads to wrong choices.

Who will come out victorious this May election, popularity or competence? May competence be our standard for selecting candidates and not their prominence. May competence prevail over prominence.—**JERICO R. FRANCISCO, 28 Mulawin St., Panghulo, Malabon, Manila**

Which is the better way to save the forests?

IT is a Sunday. I wake up to the smell of freshly brewed coffee. I flip the pages of my favorite newspaper and the editorial box says the paper used is made in China. I light a cigarette but save the matchstick for reuse later. Its box says it is from Korea.

At lunch time, I cook *inihaw na baboy* over hi-tech coal bricks from Japan. In the afternoon, I lay out plans to fix the dilapidated ceiling of my room with synthetic wood imported from the United States.

I am not a forestry expert or a scientist promoting the so-called sustainable development program. I am Juan dela Cruz, trying to live a normal life, pondering on this scenario as I hear about a squabble among politicians, who I believe are Senate President Nene Pimentel and Rep. Sonny Alvarez of Isabela, to save our forests. I was trying to see what my little world would be like if the proposal of the senator were adopted.

Pimentel says it is time for a total ban on logging. No cutting of any tree, at any time, at all cost. Alvarez, on the other hand, wants a selective log ban, choosing what to cut and what not to cut. Pimentel says Alvarez, who is said to be favored by Malacañang to head the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, will be a "dangerous secretary." Alvarez says a total log ban is the danger itself.

A total log ban is fine. In fact, it is awesome. But maybe too awesome to put into practice and too good to be true.

Meanwhile, I would like to think that a partial log ban is something like what the global community did when the supply of fish or some species of marine life were threatened. They did not ban fishing altogether but regulated what types of fish could be harvested from the sea, including limitations in the mesh size of the fisher's net.

Even in the wildlife reserves in the United States, they declare an "open season" for gaming as a sort of "check and balance," keeping the herds of animals at a manageable but productive population. Can't we do something similar to our forests here?

It would not take a brilliant mind to figure out that a total log ban may not be the best plan to save our forests. It may, however, be the very source of new, far-reaching problems and its outcome may be the opposite of its original intention.

Although I was too young then to understand what martial law was, I understand that Pimentel and Alvarez both fought against it and suffered under that regime. Recently I saw them again, with Alvarez leading the filing of the impeachment complaint in the House of Representatives, and Pimentel offering to give up the third highest post in the land if only to assure our people that truth and justice must prevail in the impeachment trial of former President Estrada.

The integrity and courage of both leaders are beyond question. Both are genuinely concerned about the environment and have one ultimate goal: saving a paradise lost.

Now, Pimentel has vowed to block the appointment of Alvarez to the DENR top post. Perhaps it would do our country good if the two gentlemen combined their heads instead of locking horns over this issue.—**CARLOS A. GARCIA, 101 A. Bonifacio St., San Juan, Metro Manila**

The right man for DENR

REP. Heherson T. Alvarez is not in the senatorial lineup of the People Power Coalition. Whether or not he backed out voluntarily or was pushed out doesn't really matter. A man like Alvarez should be in the front line of public service. It would be our country's loss if Alvarez were not to be appointed to a meaningful government position.

Right now, because of his intense espousal and commitment to environment concerns, a commitment obvious in bills and laws he has authored, as well as international recognition he has received as an environmentalist, Alvarez would be a fitting Department of Environment and Natural Resources head.

It is regrettable that Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., whose admirable stance during the infamous voting on the second envelope is etched in our consciousness, has opposed Alvarez's possible appointment to head the DENR, while acknowledging that he would be a credit to the Cabinet in other positions. His basis was Alvarez's stand against a total log ban in favor of sustainable growth in select areas, with a total log ban for virgin forests and watersheds.

Just as the prophet is unappreciated in his own country, Alvarez's stand, ironically, is the same as the policy adopted by countries that have successfully guarded their forests while providing for their timber needs and even exporting some. In fact, just about six years after Alvarez stood behind sustainable growth and was vilified by many quarters for it, a proposal was forwarded to the DENR by a respected international company offering to provide all the timber needs of the entire country using just 300,000 hectares, cultivated through the sustainable growth method, without touching any virgin forest or watershed.

This brings to mind another Alvarez recommendation, which was based on a study and proposal of volcanologists who had dealt with the lava flow from Mt. Etna. He recommended some blasting in specific points on Mt. Pinatubo's slope, to capture the lahar flow and prevent major destruction to surrounding villages. His proposal was dismissed outright by some sectors. Years later, when lahar still flowed with the heavy rains, this move was precisely recommended by sectors who had originally rejected it.

Alvarez's family lives in a modest house in Don Antonio Subdivision. He was a senator for 12 years and a congressman for three. He was certainly in the middle of countless opportunities to make a pile, legitimately or otherwise. But enriching himself is not his trip. His mission has been to make a difference in public service, on his own terms. And we will all be the richer for it.—**CHOLA COLAYCO NAVARRO, 1329 Buencamino St., BF Executive Village, Las Piñas City**

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LETTERS to the Inquirer

Banker is no friend of Erap

YOUR news report last March 7 on the stockholders' meeting of United Coconut Planters Bank mentioned the bank's president, Lorenzo V. Tan, as being "a friend of (former President) Estrada."

This is untrue and irresponsible. Tan met the former president only once: in 1999 when he went to Malacañang to receive his award as the Philippine Jaycees' TOYM awardee for banking. Tan was there with eight other awardees, including Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and Guillermo Luz of the Makati Business Club. Tan has never known Estrada on a personal level.

We certainly hope that this was an honest mistake and not intended to allude to the political affiliations of Tan. He is not a politician, but a professional banker who honed his skills during a 12-year stint in Citibank in the United States, focusing mainly on corporate workouts and restructuring.—**RICKY LEPATAN, assistant vice president, corporate communications, United Coconut Planters Bank, UCPB Bldg., 7907 Makati Avenue, Makati City**

The best of old politics

I WRITE to clarify your calling Jose de Venecia's running in Pangasinan a symbol of old politics in your March 2 editorial. I was at Edsa I and Edsa II, and I support the cry for reforms in all facets of our political and economic life. This gargantuan task, I believe, needs men and women who possess a clear vision for a progressive and developed Philippines backed by competence, which can be gleaned from their track records.

A new face running for public office does not necessarily guarantee the advent of new politics. I believe your distinction of old or new politics is based on the idea that old means bad and new means good. Former Speaker De Venecia, as you pictured him in your editorial, is a symbol of old politics thus, in your equation, bad for the Philippines.

Contrary to your view, I consider De Venecia as one of the great statesmen this country has ever had. His solid achievements in the peace process, economic development, foreign policy and coalition building to effectively bring together the diverse interests of contending politicos from different parties in supporting reforms in governance, for instance, have certainly benefited the Filipino people. Old and new politicians do not matter. What matters is the quality of service they will render for the attainment of the greatest good of the greatest number of Filipinos.—**EDWIN MONARES, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Sta. Mesa, Manila**

Gov't should go after Estrada

THE SANDIGANBAYAN and the Macapagal administration should not just catch the small fry. They should concentrate on getting the big fish and sending them to jail. If the Sandiganbayan sentenced former Revenue Commissioner Bienvenido Tan to 15 years for graft, then it can convict other higher-ranking officials in the government.

It's common knowledge that the government is crawling with corrupt officials from the bottom-up. In fact, the preceding administration was headed by one of the most corrupt officials since Marcos. Everyone in the government should help hasten the process of prosecuting and arresting the ousted president.

Estrada's declaration that the new administration should uphold the total war policy and junk the peace talks altogether makes people's groups more determined to see him arrested. He should be made to be pay for pushing the genocidal war in Mindanao early last year.

Lastly we would like to make a comment on the claim of former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara that Estrada is still popular, and that this goes to show that Estrada should still be the president.

Of course, Estrada is still popular. He was a movie star. But as a government official, he was popular for the wrong reasons.

Popularity is not what makes a good president. Estrada was a religious bigot, subservient to foreign interests, a womanizer, a gambler and corrupt.—**LITO USTAREZ, Workers Against Erap, 538 R. Vicencio St., Mandaluyong City**

Taking umbrage at gay bashing

MILITANT gays take offense at the insulting homophobic remarks made by Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa against former Navy chief, Rear Admiral Guillermo Wong, in the heat of the mudslinging among factions in the Armed Forces, in relation to a scandal surrounding an equipment procurement scam. We deplore Espinosa's reported outburst to the media that Wong should resign, implying that Wong was like a "*bakla*" or gay.

The remark is very insulting to all gays in the country who are pictured by male chauvinists as wavering and indecisive. We gays can show the world that homosexual men are as firm and resolute as everybody else, as proven by the participation of gay people in the People Power II protests against a fascist president.

We decry the use by politicians and power-wielders of the gay epithet to attack one another. Men in uniform should avoid dragging our dignity into their undignified warmongering.

Despite this poisoned atmosphere of name-calling, the Progressive Organization of Gays in the Philippines remains confident in the honor of gay and lesbian people united and participating in the building of a new political culture. We are pushing for the election of the Bayan Muna party-list candidates to Congress because it is the most progressive party that will fight for free education, fair jobs and wages, affordable health care and democratic rights for the gay minorities. They can defend us from militarists who pretend to be valiant behind macho words but only waste the people's money on war and bureaucratic corruption.—**OSCAR ATADERO, secretary, Progressive Organization of Gays in the Philippines, 90 J. Bugallon St., Project 4, Quezon City**

Traffic woes in Sta. Mesa

COLLEGE seniors in banking and finance of the University of the East would like to appeal to the authorities regarding the daily traffic jam along Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard, specifically in the Pureza area due to the lack of traffic enforcers, defective traffic lights and the ongoing construction of the LRT line along this road. Better access and public safety would be obtained if this problem is given enough attention. Can something be done about this now?—**JANICE B. BABIERA, DEHLEEN S. BULA, University of the East, College of Business Administration, Claro M. Recto Street, Manila**

Time to show we are not stupid

I PROBABLY write on behalf of many overseas Filipinos when I say that only the 13 senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition should be elected in the May elections.

After the Supreme Court and People Power II ousted Joseph Estrada, let us show to the whole world that we are not stupid. All pro-Erap candidates are definitely removed from reality. Have they not watched the impeachment trial where Erap was exposed as a corrupt and an incompetent president?

But there is one party-list candidate that I want to be elected to Congress—Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna. Sincere, articulate, competent and dedicated, he has suffered so much during martial law that we should send him to Congress.—**OSCAR R. LANDICHO, Sydney, Australia**

No longer dazzled by legal brilliance

SEN. Juan Ponce Enrile has only himself to blame for being one of the most hated senators. In fact, prior to that famous Tessie Aquino-Oreta dance, he and Miriam Defensor-Santiago were the most hated persons for standing in as lawyers of the defense in the perception of many. They were most hated for twisting the truth by using technicalities (or gobbledygook, according to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon).

Every time Enrile opened his mouth and hurled insults at the witnesses, we felt insulted too.

It's time for him to realize that Filipinos are not so stupid as to give him adulation for his brilliance in the law. We are tired of brilliant people using the law to justify dictatorship. We are tired of brilliant people using their wits to defend thieves and plunderers.

I hope Enrile will change his strategy so he might regain some of the respect people had for him. It's never too late.—**STEVE M. SAPALO, 26 Buenviaje St., San Antonio Valley 3, Parañaque City**

US backs South Korea's rapprochement policy

SEOUL—Fears here that Seoul's policy of engagement toward Pyongyang could be undermined by the new US administration have eased following this week's US-South Korea summit, officials and analysts said Thursday.

South Korean officials noted that a joint statement issued after Wednesday's meeting in Washington said US President George W. Bush had assured South Korean President Kim Dae-jung of continued US support for his policy of seeking rapprochement with North Korea.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Zeno Park

"President Bush expressed support for the Republic of Korea government's policy of engagement with North Korea and President Kim's leading role in resolving inter-Korean issues," the statement said.

"The two leaders shared the hope that a second inter-Korean summit will make a positive contribution to inter-Korean relations and Northeast Asian security," it added.

North Korea's leader Kim Jong-il has promised to visit Seoul this year to build on the momentum for reconciliation and peace initiated by his landmark inter-Korean summit with Kim Dae-jung in Pyongyang in June.

"It is meaningful that President Bush expressed his support for our government's North Korea policy," South Korean presidential spokesperson Park Joon-young said.

An unindentified senior South Korean official was quoted as saying by Kookmin daily here that during the summit, Kim Dae-jung also conveyed to Bush Kim Jong-il's willingness to resume talks with Washington.

After the summit, Bush said he had "some skepticism about the leader of North Korea" but that it was not going to preclude the United States from trying to achieve the common objective of engaging North Korea.

Bush said he had told Kim Dae-jung that the United States looked forward to having a dialogue with North Korea "at some point in the future" but that any negotiations would require "complete verification" of the terms of agreements.

US officials said Bush was referring to verification procedures in a proposed accord with Pyongyang on missiles left over from the previous administration.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said there were no immediate plans to resume talks on halting Pyongyang's missile program, which Washington views as a serious threat.

The United States has a long list of concerns over North Korea, including its missile program, exports of military technology and nuclear program, stalled in a 1994 deal under which the North was promised reactors for electricity generation.

But South Korean officials took Bush's remarks on his skepticism about North Korea in stride. "The United States does have doubts and suspicions about North Korea, but the basic stance is that it will support South Korea's policy of engagement," the South Korean presidential spokesperson said.

Yu Suk-ryurl of the state-run Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security said the summit had narrowed differences between the allies in their policy frameworks toward North Korea. He noted that Bush supported Kim Dae-jung's policy of reconciliation and his leading role in resolving inter-Korean issues. "The summit eased concerns in South Korea that Washington may oppose the direction of its Northern policy. However, there will be, of course, differences in detailed strategies," he said.

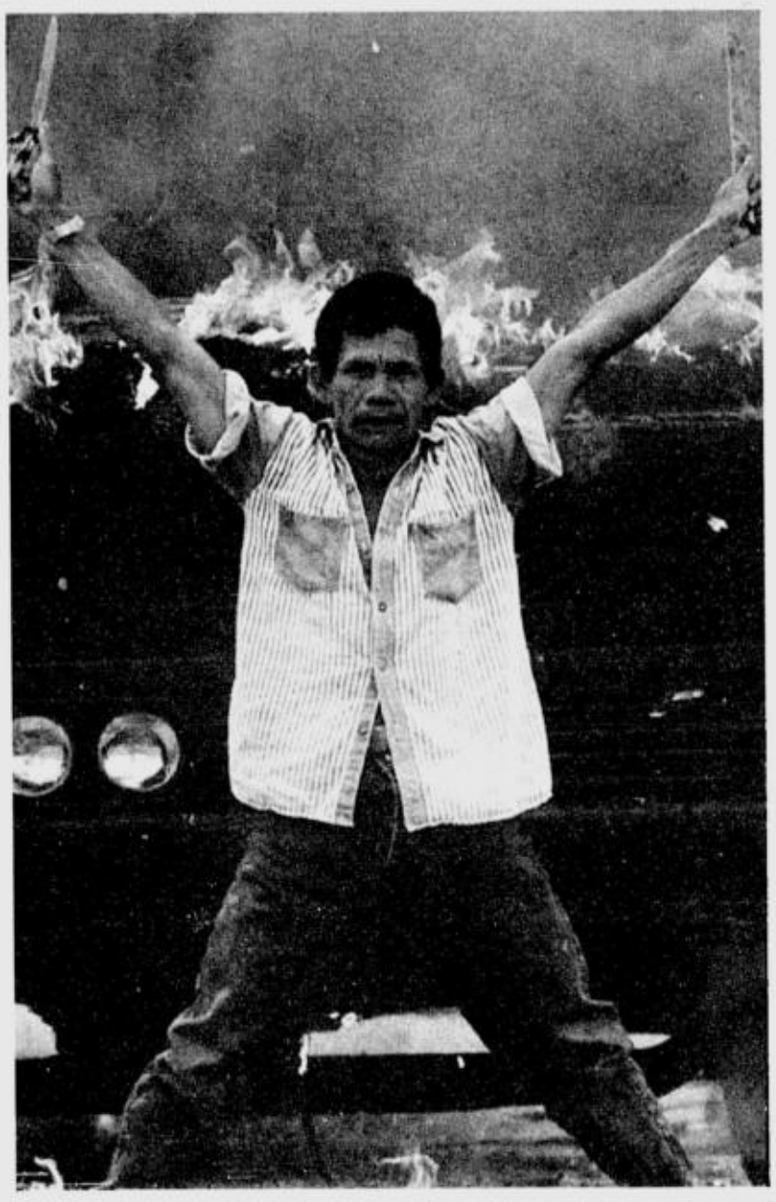
But Chung Chong-wook, who served as presidential adviser for foreign affairs under former president Kim Young-sam, said the summit had confirmed considerable differences between Seoul and Washington over whether Pyongyang is amenable to gestures of rapprochement. "There is high possibility that further policy consultations between Seoul and Washington on North Korea would turn out to be tougher than expected," he said.

International relations Prof. Yoon Young-kwan of the Seoul National University said Bush's skepticism about Pyongyang could benefit Seoul. "South Korea could exploit this kind of skepticism in Washington about North Korea by persuading Pyongyang to come forward more actively in dialogue and exchange with Seoul," Yoon said. *AFP*

The WORLD
MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

AFTER WAHID VISIT

Borneo cops kill Dayak protesters



AN ARMED Dayak stands beside a burning police truck after a group of Dayaks set it on fire during a protest in Palangkaraya in central Kalimantan province March 9. About 200 students marched to the local parliament in Palangkaraya to protest the shootings. REUTERS

PALANGKARAYA, Indonesia—Hundreds of demonstrators yesterday rallied in this central Borneo town, a day after police gunfire killed as many as six indigenous Dayak protesters following a visit by Indonesia's head of state.

President Abdurrahman Wahid had traveled to Palangkaraya on Thursday hoping to bring peace to Central Kalimantan province where Dayaks have slaughtered about 450 settlers, mostly from the island of Madura.

However, his mission to quell ethnic tensions went tragically wrong. Just minutes after he flew out of the region, Dayak protesters threw rocks at riot police who responded with gunfire.

Some officers shot into the air, but others fired directly at the demonstrators, witnesses said.

The Kalteng Pos newspaper quoted local military chiefs as saying six men were killed. However, police said four civilians and one policeman died in the shooting outside the office of the provincial governor.

On Friday, about 500 students from local colleges gathered at the site to protest against the police action.

Thursday's violence was a further blow to Wahid, who is fending off calls for his resignation over a range of crises and scandals as Indonesia struggles with its uneasy transition to democracy.

The Dayaks angrily claim they have been robbed of their birthright by government policies under the rule of former dictator Suharto, who was ousted in 1998. During his 32-year reign, vast areas of rainforest were cut down, big mines were established and oil reserves exploited. Billions of dollars allegedly went to his family and cronies.

Suharto also encouraged tens of thousands of settlers from overpopulated Madura to move to Borneo and establish farms on Dayak tribal land.

The slaughter in the province started in mid-February and quickly took on signs of ethnic cleansing. More than 70,000 settlers or descendants of settlers were evacuated, mostly to Madura.

On Thursday, Wahid said he would work to reconcile the rival ethnic groups with the aim of repatriating the tens of thousands of Madurese refugees.

Witnesses said the president's hopes of sending the Madurese back to Borneo infuriated the 300 Dayak protesters and triggered Thursday's clash with police. *AP*

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Mori set to quit as Japan PM ahead of convention

TOKYO—Political jockeying yesterday intensified as speculation that Japan's gaffe-prone prime minister, Yoshiro Mori, was set to resign ahead of his party's annual convention next week.

Following a night of meetings among leaders of Mori's Liberal Democratic Party and its two coalition partners, speculation swirled through Tokyo that the wobbly leader would announce his resignation within a day or two, and actually leave office in a month or so.

Two major newspapers—the Yomiuri and the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, a leading business daily—said Mori was ready to announce his intentions late yesterday. The convention is to be held on Tuesday.

Officials continued to deny Mori had decided to resign, however.

"We don't know where the information is coming from," said Yasuo Fukuda, the Cabinet's chief spokesperson. "I can't comment on such specious speculation."

MORI

Speculation over when Mori would resign had been intensifying for weeks.

Mori took office in April after Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi suffered a fatal stroke and his tenure has since been marred by scandals and frequent verbal gaffes, including remarks similar to the jingoism of Japan's wartime leaders.

His public support ratings have plunged to the single-digit level, making him the second-most unpopular prime minister Japan has had since World War II.

He survived a no-confidence motion earlier this week, the second in five months, and opposition party officials yesterday said they are considering whether to submit a censure motion against him next week. That was also not likely to pass, because the opposition lacks the votes.

But Mori's continuing problems have made the ruling coalition nervous because elections for the upper house of Parliament are scheduled for July.

"It's extremely difficult to regain trust in the Mori administration," Yoichi Miyazawa, an LDP member of Parliament, said Thursday.

Staying in office through the end of the month would allow Morito see the budget through Parliament and to hold a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin on March 25. Mori is also hoping to meet with U.S. President George W. Bush around March 19. *AP*

LIFT-OFF REUTERS

The space shuttle Discovery lifts off on Mission STS-102 to the International Space Station at the Kennedy Space Center, March 8. Seven astronauts are aboard Discovery along with the Leonardo Multipurpose Logistics Module.

Sub captain lauded for rescue bid

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—The captain of the US nuclear attack submarine that rammed a Japanese fishing trawler while surfacing last month wiped away a tear late Thursday, as top Navy investigator praised his bid to rescue survivors.

Admiral Charles Griffiths called USS Greeneville commander Scott Waddle's rescue efforts in the aftermath of the Feb. 9 crash "remarkable" as he concluded his testimony Thursday. Griffiths had spent four days criticizing Waddle's performance before the collision, which was fatal for a number of those aboard the Japanese boat.

However, he said Thursday Waddle should not be held criminally negligent in the collision from which nine people are missing presumed dead, four of them high school students, of a total 35 aboard the vessel.

The collision during the submarine's emergency surfacing maneuver has strained US-Japanese relations.

As the special naval board of inquiry drew to an end for the day, family members of victims of the Ehime Maru crash were ushered into a side room with Japanese government members to hear what was expected to be a personal apology from Waddle.

Sources said the meeting was very emotional, as a mob of photographers and reporters waited outside the court house. *AFP*

US couple suspends 'battle' over twins

LOS ANGELES—The California couple involved in a trans-Atlantic tug-of-war over eight-month-old twin girls said Thursday the legal battles have been "devastating."

Richard Allen spoke one day after he and his wife Vickie suspended their efforts to adopt the two girls, the so-called "Internet twins."

Belinda and Kimberley are being cared for by foster parents in Britain, while US and British courts have tried to work out competing custody claims of their natural parents and the two couples who sought to adopt them.

"We've been financially devastated by this," Richard Allen said in a telephone interview from his home in Highland Park, east of Los Angeles.

"Since March 22 of last year we've been faced with the loss of close to three million dollars."

The last straws for the Allens were allegations of fraud against Vickie Allen by a former employer, and criminal charges—to which Richard has pleaded not guilty—that he sexually molested two teenaged baby-sitters.

After those charges, the Allens lost custody of Andrew, their two-year-old adopted son.

"I cannot comment on the adoption of our son or the issues with regard to the charges (of molestation)," he said.

"It's a situation that we're having a very hard time trying to overcome, because we've not been able to defend ourselves."

Last October, an Internet adoption broker placed the twins with the Allens after they paid $6,000. But broker Tina Johnson later took the babies back and gave them, for a higher fee, to Alan and Judith Kilshaw of Wales. *AFP*

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Appeals court rules Pinochet to stand trial as accessory

REUTERS

SUPPORTERS of former Chilean leader Augusto Pinochet cry after hearing the ruling of an appeals court in Santiago, March 8. A three-judge panel ruled 2-1 that Pinochet can be tried for human rights abuses during his 1973-1990 rule, but the decision was expected to be appealed to the Supreme Court.

SANTIAGO—Former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet must stand trial in the deaths and disappearance of some 75 political opponents in 1973, but only as an accessory, not the mastermind, an appeals court ruled Thursday.

The Santiago appeals court voted two to one to uphold Judge Juan Guzman's January ruling ordering Pinochet's arrest.

But the appeals court said Pinochet could only be tried as an accessory in the military operation known as the "Caravan of Death," which took place in the weeks after the bloody September 1973 coup that brought him to power.

Prosecutor Carmen Hertz said lawyers would appeal the court's decision to Chile's Supreme Court.

"It's untenable that he who gave the order is an accessory and not the author," said Hiram Villagra, another prosecuting attorney.

The court's decision was unsatisfying, but "it's important that he be prosecuted," Villagra said, adding he expects in the end Pinochet will be convicted.

Guzman would not comment on the court's ruling, except to say it clears the way for Pinochet's conditional release from house arrest if he requests it.

A lawyer for the ex-dictator, Pablo Rodriguez, said the request would be filed in the next few days.

"It's the greatest injustice in the world," Pinochet's eldest son and namesake, Augusto Pinochet Hiriart, told the online newspaper El Mostrador.

The ailing, 85-year-old Pinochet has steadfastly denied the charges against him, and his lawyers insist the crimes were carried out on the orders of a subordinate.

The case decided Thursday involves a fraction of the 242 accusations filed against Pinochet in connection with killings and human-rights abuses carried out by security forces during his iron-fisted rule from 1973 to 1990.

At least 3,000 people—mostly Chilean nationals—are estimated to have been killed for political reasons during that time.

Chilean President Ricardo Lagos would not comment on the court's ruling, but government spokesperson Claudio Huepe said it "would not affect the normal relations that the government and the armed forces enjoy."

Leaders of Chile's powerful armed forces quickly closed ranks around Pinochet after the court ruling was announced. *AFP*

Bush tough talk about Pyongyang raises concerns

TOKYO—The Bush administration's tough talk about North Korea's communist regime yesterday raised concerns in Asia about regional security, with one editorial in Japan warning that "treating Pyongyang like an enemy will ensure that it becomes one."

However, analysts said that holding the North and its million-man Army accountable isn't likely to jeopardize South Korea's policy of reconciliation with Pyongyang.

If a consensus emerged, it seemed to be that Bush should try to capitalize on the Clinton administration's progress toward curbing the North's long-range missile threat.

Bush's summit in Washington on Wednesday with South Korean President Kim Dae-jung was closely scrutinized across East Asia, where democratic South Korea, Japan and Taiwan rely on the 87,000 US troops based in South Korea and Japan for their security against communist countries such as North Korea and China.

Bush told Kim that the United States will not immediately resume Clinton-era talks with North Korea, which achieved a moratorium on its missile testing in September 1999 in exchange for the partial lifting of sanctions.

Bush said he was skeptical about North Korean leader Kim Jong-il and expressed doubt that a missile deal could be verified, given North Korea's penchant for secrecy.

On Thursday, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said he may try to expand prospective missile negotiations with Pyongyang by including US misgivings about its conventional force. He also said Washington would consider modifying a 1994 agreement aimed at halting the North's suspected nuclear weapons program.

North Korea did not immediately react to the Bush-Kim Dae-jung summit. But a statement released on Wednesday by its foreign ministry said Pyongyang sees Bush as hostile.

His administration is "increasingly assertive for a hardline stance toward Pyongyang," which could jeopardize reconciliation between the two countries, the statement said.

It also said the United States should not assume that the North would be willing to "totally disarm itself first" as part of any agreement.

After decades of enmity, the Clinton's administration engineered the first visit of a high-ranking North Korean military official to Washington, and negotiations in Pyongyang in October involving then-US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Women still face 'glass ceiling'

GENEVA—Women are making up an increasing percentage of the world's workers, but many still find it impossible to break into top jobs, the International Labor Organization said Thursday. In a report to mark International Women's Day, the organization said women—who make up around 40 percent of the global work force—face a "glass ceiling" when they try to get to the top in business and politics. Worldwide, women hold up to 3 percent of top executive jobs. Eight countries have female heads of state while less than 14 percent of the world's lawmakers and 1 percent of labor union leaders are female, said the study, an 18-page summary of a book to be published later this year. "For women who also experience race discrimination, the barrier to top jobs seems to be made of unbreakable Plexiglas," the report added. *AP*

Bridge victims washed ashore

LISBON—Portugal's interior minister confirmed late Thursday that four bodies washed up on the Spanish coast were victims of the bridge disaster in northern Portugal feared to have killed at least 70 people. Relatives had identified the bodies from photographs that the Spanish authorities e-mailed to Portugal, said Nuno Severiano Teixeira. A coach and at least three cars plunged into the river Douro when the 115-year-old bridge between the towns of Castelo de Paiva and Entre-ôs-Rios in northern Portugal collapsed late Sunday. The bodies, together with wreckage and paperwork, were washed ashore on the northeast Spanish coast off Galicia, about 250 km north of where the river joins the sea. *AFP*

Zapatista supporters to be freed

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico—Gov. Pablo Salazar announced Thursday that he will free all Zapatista supporters from jails in Chiapas, partially meeting one of three remaining demands made by rebels in the southern state. The move comes as the Zapatista rebels begin to wrap up a 15-day march through Mexico to build support for an Indian rights and autonomy bill before Congress. President Vicente Fox has made peace with the rebels one of his main goals since taking office Dec. 1, ending 71 years of power by the Institutional Revolutionary Party. In an effort to lure the Zapatistas back to long-stalled talks, he has closed four Army bases in Chiapas, helped gain the release of dozens of jailed Zapatista supporters and sent Congress the Indian rights bill that would give indigenous communities some autonomy. *AP*

Annan visits south Asia

UNITED NATIONS—Secretary General Kofi Annan leaves Friday for a 10-day trip to south Asia where he is expected to promote democracy in Pakistan, a reduction in nuclear competition between India and Pakistan—and to speak out against the Taliban's plans to destroy non-Islamic cultural treasures. While Afghanistan is not on Annan's itinerary, a senior UN official said it's possible the secretary general will meet a Taliban official, presumably in Pakistan where the religious militia maintains a diplomatic mission. The Taliban's harboring of accused terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden is also expected to come up during the trip, the official said. *AP*

Red Army backer arrested

TOKYO—Police yesterday arrested a 51-year-old man on suspicion he harbored a founding member of the Japanese Red Army terrorist group, bringing the number of supporters nabbed to six. Fusako Shigenobu, the Red Army's founder, was arrested in western Japan in November after more than 25 years on the run. A Tokyo Metropolitan Police spokesperson identified the man arrested yesterday as Takashi Nakagawa, the president of a small trading company in Yokohama, just south of Tokyo. Besides hiding Shigenobu, Nakagawa is also suspected of paying for her Internet usage fees until she was arrested, said the police spokesperson, who spoke on condition of anonymity. *AP*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

P15M allotted for plebiscite

MEYCAUAYAN, Bulacan—The municipal government has allotted at least P15 million for this town's cityhood plebiscite scheduled next month. The fund allotment came after this town was included among the 14 towns in the country that would be converted to component cities. Bulacan Rep. Angelito Sarmiento, presidential adviser on agricultural development and modernization, sponsored this town's cityhood bill. Should this town be converted into a city, Meycauayan would become Bulacan's second city after San Jose del Monte. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

₱150,000 for students

BALANGA CITY—The provincial board of Bataan has approved the allocation of P150,000 as financial assistance to the student council of the Bataan Polytechnic State College for the establishment of the BPSC Psychological Learning Center. The center will offer free hospital and counseling services for residents with mental illness. *Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Lower power rates sought

NAGA CITY—A group of artists, writers and professionals here called the Bikol Republika has asked the national government to give preferential electric rates to the Bicol region to develop its tourism industry. Patricia San Jose-Lacerna, convenor of Bikol Republika, asserted that the Bicol region is the main source of geothermal power in Tiwi, Albay and Manito-Bacon, which provides electric power for the Luzon grid. She said lower electric rates for Bicol would attract investors, which will eventually develop its major industries, especially tourism. *Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Projects set up

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources Bicol regional office last year issued seven Community-Based Forest Management Agreements (CBFM) to various people's groups in the region. DENR Bicol regional executive director Oscar Hamada said the DENR also set up six income-generating projects in the CBFM areas to augment the income of forest occupants and CBFM beneficiaries. *Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon and the Eastern section of Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have mostly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 30° Lo 24°	Baguio Hi 23° Lo 15°	Tuguegarao Hi 30° Lo 22°
Laoag Hi 31° Lo 24°	Clark Zone Hi 32° Lo 22°	Tagaytay Hi 30° Lo 21°
Legazpi Hi 31° Lo 24°	Bacolod Hi 32° Lo 24°	Roxas Hi 31° Lo 26°
Cebu Hi 32° Lo 24°	Tacloban Hi 31° Lo 23°	Gen. Santos Hi 34° Lo 23°
Zamboanga Hi 33° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 33° Lo 20°	Davao Hi 32° Lo 22°

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Trouble at the freeports

Subic paralyzed

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—At least 1,000 protesting workers of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and its subsidiary, the Freeport Services Corp., barricaded the freeport's gates here Thursday morning to demand better wages and an end to the harassment of workers.

The workers, now on the 15th day of their protest action, formed human barricades as early as 3 a.m. Thursday in the freeport's Magsaysay, Rizal Avenue, Kalaklan, Kalayaan and 14th Street gates, preventing both pedestrians and motorists from entering but allowing exit through the gates.

SBMA officials said the barricades were staged to paralyze operations at the freeport and disrupt the scheduled opening of a major Japanese factory here.

They said the move was an attempt to embarrass the SBMA before 270 Japanese businessmen, bankers and journalists who came for the opening of the Juken Sangyo wood processing plant at the Subic Techno-Park (Step), the Japanese industrial estate here.

SBMA security officials ordered the gates closed to deny entry to the protesters planning to disrupt the 10 a.m. inauguration.

Investors assailed the Olongapo City government and the Philippine National Police for allowing the barricade to last for hours.

Olongapo Mayor Katherine Gordon said in a radio interview yesterday that she had appealed to the protesters to disperse voluntarily.

"We condemn this action," said Jose Saddul, Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce president. He said he would present a letter of complaint to the government through the SBMA on behalf of freeport investors.

He said investors would also demand a "guarantee from President Macapagal-Arroyo that this will not happen again."

The opening ceremony went on without hitches but thousands of workers and students at the zone failed to report for work and classes as protesters manned the barricades, it was learned.

A statement from the Olongapo City government said work operations at the SBMA were "paralyzed" and "almost 80 percent" of the freeport's workers expressed sympathy to the protesting SBMA and FSC workers. It placed the number of protesters at 2,000.

Leo Besas, an assistant to Olongapo Mayor Katherine Gordon, said the barricade was staged to demand better wages and an end to the harassment of workers identified with her and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon.

SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo told reporters covering the Juken Sangyo opening that he did not expect the barricade to have a major impact on freeport operations but expressed lament over the protests which he described as "politically motivated."

Payumo claimed it was the Gordon camp that instigated the barricade.

Besas denied that the Gordons had initiated the protests.

He said Mayor Gordon tried to pacify the protesters by asking Civil Service Commission Regional Director Anicia Marasigan-De Lima to hear the labor issues.

Besas said the barricades were lifted before noon Thursday.

The Olongapo City government statement said the protesters had expressed "disgust and impatience over the SBMA administration for lack of concern for their welfare."

"(We) were promised a formal dialogue with the SBMA-FSC officials to officially negotiate their demands in the midst of a report to work ultimatum within 48 hours that Payumo issued. But until yesterday (Wednesday), no formal attempts for the discussion have been made," the statement quoted Almira Capistrano, FSC-Green Brigade representative, as saying. *Elizabeth Marcelo with reports from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

30 workers hurt in Clark picket

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Thirty workers were hurt Thursday when around 100 policemen and security guards in Clark dispersed the picket lines manned since late January by striking workers of the tire company Yokohama Philippines here.

Violence in Clark's first major strike this year erupted at 7 a.m. when two fire trucks from the Clark Development Corp. and the Clark International Airport Corp. trained their water hoses on 70 protesting workers, according to Tonton David, spokesperson of the Bukluran ding Mag-Obra Pampanga.

CDC guards also threw rocks at the workers, David claimed. He said two bonnet-wearing CIAC guards also aimed their .45 cal. pistols at the workers.

Abigail Manalili, a staffer of the Workers Alliance of Region III, was reportedly beaten up.

WAR III, a militant labor federation affiliated with the Kilusang Mayo Uno, had been helping the Yokohama Employees Union when its members decided to go on strike Jan. 20 amid threats by the company to suspend and dismiss 128 employees who joined anti-Estrada rallies.

Ronald Celestino, Yokohama operations manager, said company officials earlier asked the CDC to disperse the striking workers since, he noted, they have been "harassing" non-striking workers.

On Wednesday, Celestino said operations were paralyzed because the protesting workers prevented other workers from reporting for work.

Yokohama's daily production output of 5,200 tires had been reduced by almost half because of the six-week-old strike, he said.

On March 1, Yokohama president Keiichi Sekiya asked CDC president Rogelio Singson for assistance to hire 60 new workers.

"We have been patient with this situation (the strike) and the company cannot afford to lose more," Sekiya said in his letter to Singson.

Angelo Lopez, CDC public information chief, said CDC security chief Renato Rosete had ordered the dispersal on Thursday morning after the striking workers refused to remove a blockade on a road leading to the Yokohama plant.

Rosete, according to Lopez, asked the union members to refrain from harassing Yokohama employees.

Rosete also asked the regional police on Wednesday to deploy two platoons of anti-riot policemen to Yokohama.

David and leaders of the union denied the allegations of harassment and accused CDC officials and the Yokohama management of "conniving to frustrate legitimate, peaceful protests while the case was still pending with the national office of the Department of Labor and Employment."

Singson asked Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas to take jurisdiction over the labor dispute.

"We have maintained peaceful pickets all throughout the strike. We have not stopped the workers from entering the company premises," he said.

Union leaders said they were filing cases against the CDC, CIAC and Yokohama management before the Commission on Human Rights. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Gov't vows to rebuild Hashim house

COTABATO CITY—The government will rebuild the devastated house and office of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) chief Salamat Hashim in Barangay Bumbaran, Barira, Maguindanao so he can, "hopefully" return there as a "leader of his people."

"We will rebuild the house and hopefully Chairman Salamat can return there as a leader of his people," Jesus Dureza, chair of the government peace panel, told radio station dxMS here.

But Dureza explained Thursday in Davao City that Hashim can return there like the other displaced residents, "to take residence there but not to reestablish a military camp for the MILF."

Dureza, also presidential assistant for regional concerns, made a quick visit to Camp Abubakar and Salamat's house Wednesday, to show the MILF President Macapagal's sincerity in solving the conflict.

Today, Dureza will attempt to cross the Liguasan Marsh to bring relief assistance to recently displaced residents and to meet with emissaries of MILF chair Hashim.

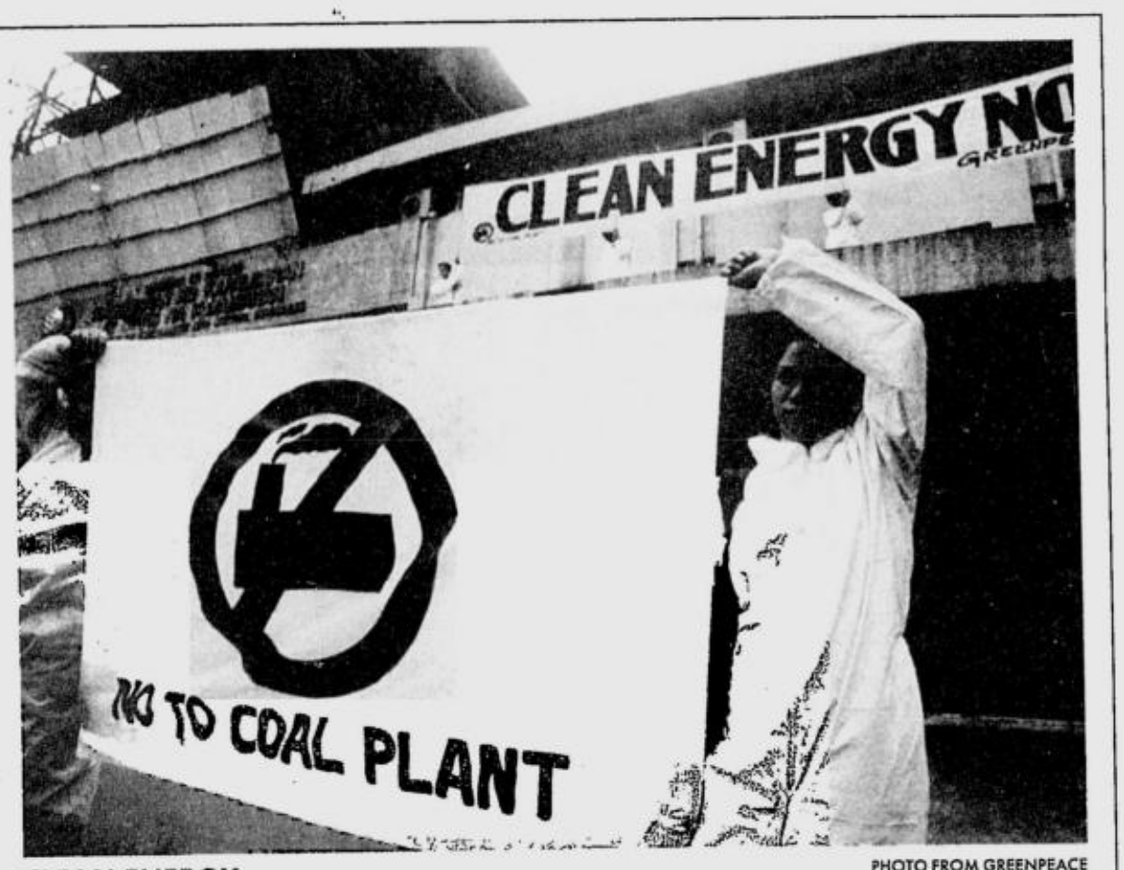
Dureza will go without military escorts. "This is a purely humanitarian mission."

Salamat's house which used to have computer rooms and surrounded by cal. 50 machine guns, was the last MILF stronghold captured by the military in early July last year.

It also housed the MILF central communication facilities which the military recovered recently. A half-concrete structure was well camouflaged and not so visible to helicopter pilots. From there, Salamat and his central committee, reportedly commanded some 10,000 MILF fighters all over Mindanao through a satellite dish and computers.

"This is the kind of thing that I am doing now . . . restore normalcy in war-torn communities while the negotiations are ongoing," Dureza said.

"I hope the MILF will cooperate in this endeavor," he added. "Whether we like it or not, the people are followers of Salamat so I see no reason why he won't allow the return of refugees and our gesture of having his house constructed." *Edwin Fernandez with a report from Carolyn Arguillas, Chief, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



CLEAN ENERGY PHOTO FROM GREENPEACE

The demand for clean energy reaches the doorsteps of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Quezon City which was accused by protesters belonging to the group Greenpeace of issuing a "midnight" environmental clearance to a coal plant in Pulupandan City.

Ship catches fire; crew of 10 saved

BY ALEX PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Ten crewmen of the MV Delta 2 were saved after their ship's engine exploded and caught fire, causing the ship to sink some six miles southeast of Apo Island on Thursday.

The fastcraft, operated by the Dumaguete-based DIMC Shipping, was on a sea trial and was carrying no passengers at the time of the incident. No one was reported injured.

The rescued crewmen were identified as ship captain Vincent Bacos, Chief Mate Richard Gainsan, Chief Engineer Sixto Aviso, 2nd Engineer Nicolas Cahilog, Oiler Jerry Reyes and Wilbert Villahermoso, Apprentice Mates Kim Tacang, Nelson Embrado and Alvin Abolacion and cleaning crewmember Roel Antique.

Petty Officer 3 Andrew Sienes of the Dumaguete Coast Guard station told the INQUIRER that they monitored a radio transmission at 9:45 a.m. last Thursday from the Delta 2, requesting for assistance from its sister vessels, Delta 1 and the Delta Car Ferry, due to "engine trouble."

He said Ramon Raymundo, DIMC Shipping operations manager, later reported to the Coast Guard station that the ship's right main engine caught fire after an explosion.

The cause of the explosion was not immediately known.

The ship sank at around 2:30 p.m., Sienes quoted Raymundo as saying.

Cirilo Saldon, Dumaguete Coast Guard commander, has advised the vessel operators to file a marine protest within 24 hours of the incident and describe what actually happened during the sea trial.

The Delta 2 was supposed to ply the Dipolog-Dumaguete-Tagbilaran-Cebu and Larena routes.

It was the second ship operated by the DIMC Shipping to sink in less than 10 years.

DRUGWATCH APPEAL

Junk drug coddlers, voters urged

THE DRUGWATCH party-list group called on voters to reject local candidates who have interfered in drug cases as part of the people's campaign against drug abuse.

In a statement, DrugWatch spokesperson Peter Sing noted that most candidates have included the fight against drugs as part of their platform.

"We advise the public to check with the police if these candidates are merely masquerading as anti-drugs advocates," he said.

According to DrugWatch volunteers, it has been common practice for parents of a suspected drug user or pusher to appeal to an incumbent local official to intervene in pending drug cases.

"Local officials who allow themselves to be used to pressure the PNP into releasing suspected pushers and users deserve to be junked," Sing said in his statement.

DrugWatch said candidates who are running on an anti-drugs platform should have a solid record of anti-drugs initiatives behind them.

"It's not enough to proclaim one's disgust with drugs. Local candidates should be asked to present the anti-drugs programs they have in mind for the locality," he said.

The DrugWatch party-list group has sought to combine their electoral campaign with an ongoing information dissemination campaign about drug abuse.

"We are more than willing to join forces with local candidates whose platforms against drugs are truly noteworthy and implementable," Sing said.

DrugWatch volunteers all over the country called on voters to take advantage of the May elections to boot out of office elected officials who have turned into coddlers of known pushers and users in the community.

Most abuses vs women done at home, says group

BY FRANK CIMATU
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Domestic violence is by far the most prevalent form of gender-based violence in the Cordillera and in key areas in the country, according to the Center Against Trafficking of Women (CATW).

The CATW, which held its national conference here last week, said domestic violence accounted for more than 90 percent of complaints of violence against women in the country.

Last year's figures gathered from Metro Manila, the Cordillera and the cities of Angeles, Cebu, Bacolod and Davao listed 588 cases of domestic violence.

Rape cases were at a distant second at 52 cases and incest cases at 20. There were 13 cases of sexual assault and molestation and 14 cases of sexual harassment.

Domestic violence, rape and sexual harassment involved 428 victims or survivors and 407 perpetrators.

A separate documentation made by the CATW on prostitution and trafficking listed 268 cases with 208 victims and 300 perpetrators.

According to the Ebgan Inc., a Baguio-based non-government organization helping abused women, there are relatively fewer cases of domestic rape in the Cordillera because there are fewer women reporting these.

Since September 2000, 66 cases of domestic violence and 31 cases of rape were recorded in the Cordillera, Ebgan said.

There was a case of child abuse and 35 cases of violence against women, including maltreatment and physical injuries.

The group gets its reports from the Baguio City office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the local police's children and women's desk and their counseling groups.

Other forms of abuses include abduction, attempted murder, child labor, date and marital rapes, forced abortion and reproductive and sexual health rights violations.

According to the CATW, victims need not look far for trouble. Their homes are sites of 71 percent of all forms of abuses. Abuses also happen in relatives' houses (19 percent) and a victim's place of employment (7 percent).

Fifty-four percent of perpetrators are the victims' husbands and 12.9 percent are their live-in partners.

Relatives accounted for 8.9 percent of perpetrators while the victims' neighbors accounted for 6.8 percent.

According to Ebgan, most victims of domestic violence in the Cordillera belong to the 26 to 35 age group while 30 percent of victims are minors.

As to the reasons for committing abuses, Ebgan said their data are incomplete. "There is the inability to interview perpetrators. The abuses as recounted by the victims (who) mostly say that the perpetrators were under the influence of alcohol, among others. Another primary reason is jealousy," Ebgan said.

NBI hit for saying PMAer killed self

STA. CRUZ, Ilocos Sur—The parents of 2nd Lt. Jessica Chavez are upset over National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco's statement that their daughter's death was self-inflicted.

"(Wycoco) has to show evidence to prove his claim," said Chavez's father Efren on Thursday.

He said he was shocked and disturbed by Wycoco's announcement, adding that it was completely different from the earlier statements given by the NBI that had ruled out suicide.

Chavez, 22, a member of the Philippine Military Academy's Sanghaya Class 2000, was found dead inside her barracks at the Philippine Army military police headquarters in Fort Bonifacio in Makati City last Feb. 9. She died from a single wound in her chest.

Wycoco was quoted by newspaper reports as saying that Jessica's death was considered solved after the NBI concluded that the bullet wound in her body was self-inflicted.

"Based on the scientific and forensic investigation, the result positively showed that Chavez died by her own hand," Wycoco said.

Chavez, however, called Wycoco's conclusion "impossible," saying the NBI and CIDG have not completed their investigation of her daughter's case.

"I just called up the NBI and CIDG after (Wycoco) made the statement. The investigators told me they are not done with their probe yet," he said.

His wife, Melwilda, said she was puzzled why investigators have a different version of the case this time.

"Why are they contradicting their previous statements?" she asked.

Maximo Reyes, chief of the NBI's medico-legal division, earlier said there were no signs that could point to the death of Chavez as suicide.

Efren earlier quoted investigators as saying paraffin tests made on his daughter showed that she was negative for gunpowder burns.

He earlier said there could be three possible motives for the killing of his daughter—professional jealousy, vendetta from someone whom Jessica bypassed in the service or irregularities that Jessica may have discovered.

Jessica was the first female graduate of the PMA since the military school opened its doors to women. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Blood money could save OFW

TAGUDIN, Ilocos Sur—An Ilocano overseas worker, who was accused of stabbing and killing a fellow OFW in Saudi Arabia, could escape death if his family could raise P500,000 as blood money for the victim's family.

Marcos Rabon, 27, of Sta. Cruz town is detained at the Albaizi provincial jail in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, on charges of stabbing Irvin Cabarles, 40, of Laguna in October 1999 due to a misunderstanding.

Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson asked his former security aide, Chief Insp. Roque Verzosa, to help Rabon's family.

Verzosa said the Cabarles' relatives had initially agreed to sign an affidavit of desistance if Rabon's relatives could produce the P500,000 blood money.

Courts in Saudi Arabia require 50,000 rials or about P650,000 in blood money once a suspect is proven guilty of a crime.

Verzosa said the victim's family had agreed to the amount as compensation to Cabarles' five children.

He said they launched "Piso Para kay Rabon" here to raise funds. So far, they have collected P40,000.

"We are appealing to fellow Ilocanos to spare Rabon from death," he said.

Verzosa said Rabon admitted to the Department of Foreign Affairs that he stabbed Cabarles because Cabarles provoked him.

Rabon and Cabarles were working as metal men in the Ministry of Defense and Aviation in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia.

"Rabon is claiming self-defense. I also asked for a background investigation of Rabon and my men found out that he is a good man," Verzosa told the INQUIRER. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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NORTH LUZON
1st Prize: Maricris O. Bastero
Ilagan, Isabela
2nd Prize: Shella Mae Gacutan
Candon, Ilocos Sur
3rd Prize: Albina B. Ernesto
Irisan, Baguio City

CENTRAL LUZON
1st Prize: Jobert Bondoc
Concepcion, Tarlac
2nd Prize: Alex M. Morales
Angeles City
3rd Prize: Teresita Drouillard
Olongapo City

METRO MANILA
1st Prize: Marilou C. Babagay
San Andres Bukid, Manila
2nd Prize: Aliento A. Vadil
Balintawak, Caloocan City
3rd Prize: Leticia D. Agam
Proj. 6, Quezon City

SOUTH LUZON 1
1st Prize: Yolanda M. Cariño
San Pedro, Laguna
2nd Prize: Catalina R. Palmes
Cuenca, Batangas
3rd Prize: Nelson T. Icalina
San Pedro, Laguna

SOUTH LUZON 2
1st Prize: Grace B. Alinday
Calauag, Naga City
2nd Prize: Jocelyn R. Cuarto
Lucena City
3rd Prize: Jocelyn B. Matienzo
Ligao, Albay

EAST VISAYAS
1st Prize: Mercedes L. Martinez,
Tacloban City
2nd Prize: Julieta S. Solit
Cebu City
3rd Prize: Sheena T. Robenta
Tacloban City

WEST VISAYAS
1st Prize: Sheila Elechicon
Bacolod City
2nd Prize: Marilyn N. Barbato
Iloilo City
3rd Prize: Lilia R. Pandes
Aklan

NORTH MINDANAO
1st Prize: Joel Abelo
Pagadian City
2nd Prize: Mary Jane C. Go
Cagayan de Oro City
3rd Prize: Luzvilla B. Ollada,
Valencia, Bukidnon

SOUTH MINDANAO
1st Prize: Jocelyn Villalobos,
Zamboanga City
2nd Prize: Anicita Gorra
Davao City
3rd Prize: Alvin Abatayo
Obrero, Davao City

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INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

Old faces in 'new politics'

BY THE PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo hailed her administration as an era of "new politics" but the list of candidates for House seats, governor and mayor supported by the administration in the May 14 elections hardly had any new faces. They are composed of recycled politicians, their children, spouses, siblings or their proteges.

In all the 15 provinces in the Visayas, for example, candidates for governor who are supported by the administration's People Power Coalition are all either well-entrenched incumbents seeking reelection and veteran politicians making a comeback or seeking higher positions.

In some areas like Cebu and Capiz, opposing parties are even both claiming to be supported by the administration.

A look at the list of candidates also showed that a number of candidates for House seats and mayors who were prohibited from seeking a fourth term in 1998 are again

GONZALES

reelectionist for 3rd term Ferjinel Biron (LDP), neophyte, owner of pharmaceutical company.

5th Dist.:

Rolex Suplico (LDP), reelectionist for 2nd term Antonio Teduco (Lakas), incumbent board member

ILOILO CITY

Mayor:

Jerry Treñas (Lakas), ran and lost in the 1998 mayoral elections Guillermo de la Llana (Ind.-Drilon bloc), incumbent vice mayor Rafael Lopez Vito (LP), also a losing candidate in 1998 mayoral race House of Representatives (Lone Dist.):

Raul Gonzalez (Lakas-NUCD), reelectionist for 3rd term and member of the House prosecution panel in the Estrada impeachment trial Pascual Espinosa Jr. (PMP), neophyte.

ANTIQUE

Governor:

Damian Marfil Jr. (Reforma), incumbent vice governor Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez (Laban-LDP), former Presidential Liaison Office of the Estrada administration; allied with the Javier family Arturo Pacificador (KBL), a Marcos ally in prison for murder charges in the slaying of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier.

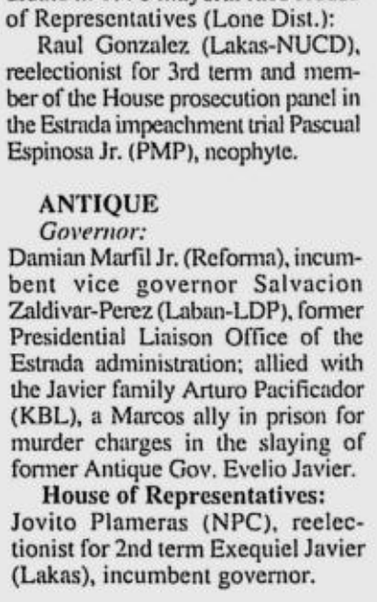
House of Representatives:

Jovito Plameras (NPC), reelectionist for 2nd term Exequiel Javier (Lakas), incumbent governor.

GUIMARAS

Governor:

Rahman Nava (LDP), reelectionist for 2nd term Gerry Yucon (Lakas), incumbent board member, a protege of Guimaras Rep. Emily Lopez House of Representatives (Lone



COJUANGCO

Dist.): Edgar Espinosa (Lakas), incumbent vice governor Vicente de Asis (LDP), losing candidate for the congressional seat in 1998. Tomas Junco (NP), provincial prosecutor.

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Governor:

Roy Gamboa (Lakas–Atun), vice governor for three terms.

Joseph Maranon (Una), third term mayor of the city of Sagay.

House of Representatives

1st Dist.:

Julio Ledesma (NPC-Una), reelectionist for 3rd term Salvador Rigor Jr. (Lakas-Atun), neophyte, businessman.

2nd Dist.:

Alfredo Maranon (NPC-Una), reelectionist for 3rd term Richard Lacson (Lakas-Atun), incumbent board member.

3rd Dist.:

Edith Vilanueva (Lakas-Atun), seeking 2nd term Jose Carlos Lacson (Lakas-Una), served as congressman of third district for three terms and now returning.

4th Dist.:

Rep. Carlos Cojuangco (NPC-Una), seeking 2nd term Juancho Aguirre (Reporma-Atun), former mayor of La Carlota City.

5th Dist.:

Jose Apolinario Lozada (Lakas), seeking 2nd term Enrique Montilla (Una), former board member

6th Dist.:

Genaro Alvarez (NPC-Una), seeking third term Alexander Ledesma Lacson (Reporma), neophyte Federico Sola (Lakas-NUCD), neophyte

BACOLOD CITY

Mayor:

Oscar Verdeflor (Ind.), incumbent mayor of Bacolod whom the Comelec ruled to be an American and ordered replaced by Vice Mayor Joy Valdez. He remains mayor while a SC decision on his appeal is being awaited.

Luzviminda "Joy" Valdez (Lakas-NUCD), incumbent vice mayor and formerly a councilor Evelio Leonardia (Ind.), former mayor who lost to Verdeflor in 1998.

Juan Ramon Guanzon (BBB for iBalik naton ang kaBantugan sang Bacolod), former Bacolod councilor and son of the late Bacolod Rep. Romeo Gamboa.

SYJUCO

Lorendo Dilag (PDP Laban), currently a Bacolod councilor.

Renedicto Novero (Ind.), former councilor who ran for congressman of Bacolod in last election and lost

House of Representatives:

John Orola (NPC-Una), seeking 2nd term Andres Hagad (Ind.), one of the convenors of the No Erap Movement.

Monico Puentevella (Lakas-NUCD), former sports commissioner Wilson Gamboa (Ind.), former Sugar Regulatory Board administrator and former assemblyman.

CENTRAL VISAYAS (Region 7)

CEBU

Governor:

Pablo Garcia (Promdi-PPC), reelectionist Fernando Celeste (Alayon-PNM), incumbent vice governor.

House of Representatives

1st Dist.:

Napoleon Rama Jr. (Abag-Promdi), neophyte but belongs to the prominent Rama political clan Jose Gullas (Alayon), brother of outgoing 3-term district Representative Eduardo Gullas.

2nd Dist.:

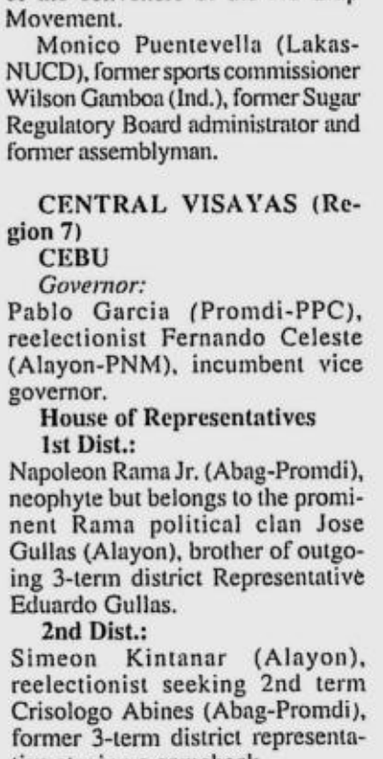
Simeon Kintanar (Alayon), reelectionist seeking 2nd term Crisologo Abines (Abag-Promdi), former 3-term district representative staging a comeback.

3rd Dist.:

Antonio Yapha (Alayon), reelectionist for 2nd term Jose Soberano III (Abag-Promdi), neophyte, former executive of Ayala Group of Co.

4th Dist.:

Clavel Asas-Martinez (Promdi), reelectionist for 2nd term, member of the House prosecution panel in



GARCIA

KINTANAR

the Estrada impeachment trial Doroteo Salazar (Alayon), incumbent mayor of Madridejos town.

5th Dist.:

Joseph Ace Durano (Alayon)—unopposed.

6th Dist.:

Efren Herrera (Promdi-PPC), reelectionist for 2nd term Nerissa Ruiz (Alayon), former district representative.

CEBU CITY

Mayor:

Alvin Garcia (Kusug), reelectionist for 3rd term.

Tomas Osmeña (BOPK-Promdi), former city mayor staging a comeback, Stephen Clint Osmeña (PMP), neophyte, believed to be a spoiler.

House of Representatives

South Dist.:

Antonio Cuenco (BOPK-Promdi), former 3-term district representative who wants to replace his one-term wife Nancy.

Aristotle Batuhan (Kusug), neophyte identified with Sen. John Osmeña.

North Dist.:

Raul Del Mar (BOPK-Promdi), former 3-term district representative who wants to replace his one-term son Raoul Del Mar.

Florencio Villarin (Ind.), former National Bureau of Investigation regional director.

NEGROS ORIENTAL

Governor:

George Arnaiz (NPC), reelectionist for 2nd term Edgar Teves (Lakas-NUCD), incumbent vice governor.

House of Representatives

1st Dist.:

Jacinto Paras (Lakas-NUCD), reelectionist Carmen Rodriguez (PMP) Reynaldo Tuanda (NPC), incumbent vice mayor of Jimalalud town.

2nd Dist.:

Emilio Macias II (NPC), reelectionist for 2nd term Francisco Villanueva (Lakas-Promdi-PPC), incumbent mayor of Bais City Miguel Romero (LDP), former district representative.

3rd Dist.:

Herminio Teves (Lakas-NUCD), reelectionist running unopposed.

DUMAGUETE CITY

Mayor:

Felipe Antonio Remollo (LP-PPC), reelectionist for 2nd term Agustin Perdices (Ind.-Pundok Kasaligan), former city mayor Joel Obar (Promdi-PPC).

BOHOL

Governor:

Rene Relampagos (PDP-Laban), reelectionist Erico Aumentado (Lakas-Promdi), outgoing representative of Bohol's 1st District.

House of Representatives

1st Dist.:

Edgardo Chatto (PDP), incumbent vice governor Venice Borja-Agana (Kampi), former district representative.

2nd Dist.:

Jose Jumamoy Jr. (PDP), former mayor of Inabanga town Roberto Cajes (Lakas), incumbent board member William Maceren (PMP), neophyte.

3rd Dist.:

Eladio Jala (PDP), reelectionist for 3rd term Isidro Zarraga (Kampi), former district representative.

SIQUIJOR

Governor:

Arthur Chan (PMP), incumbent reelectionist seeking first term; served the remaining term of the late Gov. Lucito Balanay who died in October 1999.

Orlando Fua (Lakas-PPC), former representative of Siquijor's lone district House of Representatives (Lone Dist.):

Orlando Fua Jr. (Lakas-PPC), reelectionist for 2nd term, son of former Rep. Orlando Fua Ben Aquino (NPC), former governor

EASTERN VISAYAS (Region 8)

LEYTE

Governor:

Remedios Loreto-Petilla (Lakas-NUCD), reelectionist seeking 3rd term Catalina Loreto Go. Loreto (LDP), incumbent 5th District representative and niece of Petilla.

Isaganie Espada (Ind.), former councilor of Tanauan, Leyte.

House of Representatives

1st Dist.:

Alfredo Romualdez Jr. (NPC), reelectionist seeking 2nd term Enrico Antoni (Lakas-NUCD), outgoing provincial board member.

Ted Failon (Ind.), media personality, former host of ABS-CBN news and public affairs program "Hoy Gising."

2nd Dist.:

Trinidad Go Apostol (Lakas-NUCD), Leyte vice governor and wife of outgoing district Rep. Sergio Apostol.

Carlos Romualdez (PMP), political neophyte but belongs to the influential Romualdez clan: brother of incumbent/reelectionist Rep. Alfred Romualdez Jr., son of Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez.

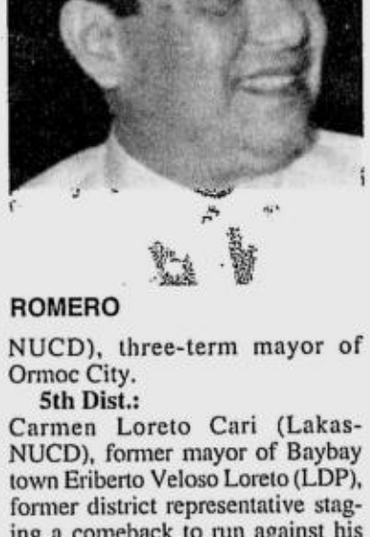
PACIFICADOR

3rd Dist.:

Eduardo Veloso (NPC), reelectionist seeking 2nd term Alberto Veloso (Lakas-NUCD), former district representative challenging his estranged brother.

4th Dist.:

Victoria Larrazabal Locsin (NPC), reelectionist seeking 2nd term Eufrocino Codilla Sr. (Lakas-



ROMERO

NUCD), three-term mayor of Ormoc City.

5th Dist.:

Carmen Loreto Cari (Lakas-NUCD), former mayor of Baybay town Eriberto Veloso Loreto (LDP), former district representative staging a comeback to run against his estranged younger sister.

TACLOBAN CITY

Mayor:

Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez Sr. (NPC), reelectionist for 2nd term Ma. Mimietta Bagulaya (LP-PPC), incumbent vice mayor Uldarico Mate (Lakas-NUCD), former three-term mayor.

SOUTHERN LEYTE

Governor:

Rosette Yñiquez Lerias (NPC), reelectionist for 2nd term Roger Mercado (Lakas-NUCD), former district representative House of Representatives (Lone District):

Anecito Saludo Jr. (LDP), reelectionist for 2nd term Roberto Castañares (NPC), neophyte, real estate businessmen, former Amari

GAMBOA

executive.

MAASIN CITY

Mayor:

Damian Mercado (Lakas-NUCD), reelectionist, 1st term for city mayor Corazon Duarte (NPC), incumbent board member of Southern Leyte and former vice mayor of Maasin town before she became board member.

SAMAR

Governor:

Jose Roño (Lakas-NUCD), reelectionist for his 3rd term Romeo Tarrayo (LDP), retired Army general who ran in the last elections but lost to Roño.

Milagros Tan (PMP), three-term board member.

House of Representatives

1st Dist.:

Paz Tuazon (Lakas-NUCD), political neophyte but wife of outgoing Rep. Rodolfo Tuazon Reynaldo Uy (LP), incumbent 3rd term mayor of Calbayog City.

2nd Dist.:

Antonio Eduardo Nachura (LP-PPC), reelectionist, member of the

MARTINEZ

House prosecution panel in the Estrada impeachment trial Catalino Figueroa (PDP-Laban), former district representative Renato Latorre (LDP-PNM), neophyte, former Bureau of Customs official.

CATBALOGAN (capital town)

Mayor:

Jesus Redaja (Lakas-NUCD), reelectionist for 3rd term Gerardo Teves (LDP), incumbent 3rd term vice mayor running against his erstwhile partymate.

CALBAYOG CITY

Mayor:

Ronald Aquino (LP), incumbent 3rd term vice mayor Senen Sarmiento (Lakas), a businessman who ran and lost for the same position in 1998.

Diego Rivera (LDP), ran and lost for the same position in 1998.

NORTHERN SAMAR

OLD FACES/p.A15

CUENCO

Old faces . . . (From page A14)

Governor:
Madelaine Mendoza Ong (Lakas-NUCD), reelectionist for 2nd term Raul Daza (LP-PNM), former district representative, one of the defense counsels of ousted President Joseph Estrada in the impeachment trial.

House of Representatives
1st Dist.:
Harlin Abayon (LP), reelectionist for 2nd term Teodoro Jumamil (Lakas-NUCD), political neophyte, a practicing lawyer.

2nd Dist.:
Romualdo Vicencio (Lakas), reelectionist for 2nd term Jose Ong (Lakas-Ind.), former district representative.

CATARMAN (capital town)
Mayor:
Francisco Rosales Jr. (Lakas), reelectionist for 2nd term Eduardo de la Cruz (LP), former 3-term mayor of Catarman.

EASTERN SAMAR
Governor:
Ruperto Ambil Jr. (LDP), reelectionist Jose Tan Ramirez (Lakas-NUCD), former district representative Clotilde Salazar (NPC), incumbent board member House of Representatives (Lone Dist.):

Marcelino Libanan (NPC), reelectionist Emeliana Villacarillo (Lakas), incumbent vice governor Elmer Solidon (LDP), practicing lawyer.

BORONGAN (capital town)
Mayor:
Nenita Arago (Lakas), wife of outgoing mayor Melcho Arago Ruben Catubay (LDP), neophyte Fidel Anacta (NPC), former Borongan mayor.

GARCIA

OSMEÑA

Exciting days ahead

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonardia

Already, even if the official campaign period has yet to begin, you can see the eloquent body language of those who have thrown their proverbial hats in the ring. Those who used to avoid media interviews have suddenly become very accessible.

Which is what probably brought about the situation that made local media entities, particularly broadcast, suspect in reports that some reporters were being "gagged" from airing stories about candidates who have not paid for air time, or who have not been patronizing the stations.

The perception became so widespread that even media organizations and entities, among them the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism and the National Union of Journalists, took notice. It was, of course, disturbing to all local practitioners who felt they were all being tarred with the same brush and made to appear no better than extortionists or profiteers who take advantage of helpless victims in a calamity.

Happily, the situation has been resolved with the station managers themselves explaining the reasons behind the policies and easing up on alleged constraints. To some, the whole thing was perceived as an early fallout from the lifting of the advertising ban, which was not quite properly interpreted.

It is, perhaps, not a surprise that all those 12 mayoral candidates are eager to replace the current group running City Hall. The past three years were shaken by so many controversies—charges of scams from one side to the other, questionable purchases of everything, from speedboats, cars and real estate to farm animals, like cows, etc.—that residents are now so confused as to who is who and what is what among their officials.

In fact, some groups have adopted the cry of leftists during the Edsa 2: "Change all!"

Matters got worse lately with the estrangement and complete falling out among the men who used to lord it over City Hall and closest to Mayor Oscar Verdeflor.

With Verdeflor handicapped by an attack that necessitated brain surgery last year and still wheelchair-bound although his tongue is still as tart as ever, it seems control has slipped to the point that the alleged pets are now attacking each other.

It got to a point when officers from the office of the Ombudsman-Visayas had to be called in and a seven-hour investigation was held Monday. Sparks flew when former city legal officer Allan Zamora, probably the nearest to Verdeflor, released the ammunition he had been threatening to fire at three city councilors, Archie Baribar, Juanito Amihan and Lorendo Dilag, whom he referred to as the "BAD" ones, after their family names.

Zamora claimed the three had earned commissions from the city's purchases, particularly in the land deals it closed recently. That stirred a hornets' nest, especially because Dilag and Amihan are running for mayor and vice mayor, and Baribar, a relative of Verdeflor, is running for reelection. Zamora, himself, is running for councilor, one of the four (there should be 12) on the ticket of Verdeflor.

As for Verdeflor, he may have had his fun after taking the mayorship and holding on to it despite his American citizenship, but the happy days are coming to an end. Even his patron, Alfredo Montelibano Jr., who had foisted him on the city, American and all, has dropped him and is backing someone else.

The Commission on Elections has confirmed Verdeflor's ineligibility to be mayor, but he has appealed to the Supreme Court. And, reports also say that because he finally regained Filipino citizenship on Oct. 24, 2000, the American government has cut off his pension as a retiree that had been paid in dollars.

IS ERAP coming to Bacolod? Media reports on what appeared to be successful sorties of the former president in Mindanao have whetted the curiosity of city residents who want to know if he will keep his word.

Shortly before he died, former Bacolod Rep. Romeo Guanzon had been,telling his friends and fellow politicians that then President Joseph Estrada had promised to support his son's candidacy for mayor of the city. The last time he was in Bacolod, Estrada visited Guanzon, who was then bedridden, and, in the presence of several people, the congressman again reminded Erap of that promise.

It is a known fact in the city that the late congressman, who had been a member of Lakas until shortly before the 1998 election, had transferred his support to Estrada and, together with his followers, worked very hard for his victory in the city. Estrada knows that and, knowing how superstitious he continues to be, he will probably remember that promise to a dying man and keep his word, come what may. Unless, of course, the courts have other plans for him in the next few days.

The Estrada endorsement and the fact that there are now 12 persons who have filed their certificates of candidacy for the mayorship of Bacolod have given the coming days prospects of being very exciting ones.

Despite women's gains, too few women candidates are running in Iloilo

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
Iloilo City

NOTWITHSTANDING the gains of the women's movement and having a woman president for a second time, too few women politicians are running for top elected posts in Iloilo.

Of the 41 candidates in the province of Iloilo, only two are women and both are running for the provincial board. In the city, only six women of 51 candidates are vying for seats in the city council. There are no women candidates for mayor, vice mayor and for the lone congressional district of Iloilo City.

Compared to the number of women who run in the 1998 elections, this year's roll of women candidates is obviously thin and likely to reinforce the myth that when it comes to politics, women remain in the fringes.

The two women candidates in the province are Jeanette Garin and Cecilia Capadosa. Garin is the wife of Guimbal town mayor Richard, who is the son of Rep. Nimfa Garin and former congressman Oscar Garin. The Garins are the political kingpins in southern Iloilo. Capadosa is a former teacher with a middle-class background.

In the city, the women candidates are Teresa Cataluña, Gaudelia Coo, Erlinda Liberinga, Ma. Concordia Manikan, Ma. Rita Bascos Sarabia and Perla Zulueta. Liberinga, Sarabia and Zulueta are incumbents.

Zulueta is married to Lazaro Zulueta, a mayor of Oton town during the Marcos era. She is strong on anti-graft cases. Sarabia is a lawyer who defended women victims of rape, incest and battering. She is partial to pro-poor issues, being an activist during her student days.

As in the past, clan politics is expected to bring women candidates to victory rather than their stand on issues affecting voters or women in particular. Garin and Zulueta are expected to be carried by the machinery of their husbands whose politics are characterized by patronage and popularity.

No different

Women's groups here are not optimistic that women politicians could carry their voices in local government. They said the women politicians' track records as well as their campaign promises and platforms of government are no different from their male counterparts. The groups, both militants and moderates, are not keen on endorsing or supporting women candidates.

In 1998, women's groups here have chosen to stay in the background rather than push their agenda during the campaign period. There were no forums where women's issues were discussed. Women's concerns were seldom mentioned during candidates' forums hosted by the media, Catholic Church and civic groups here. This year, a similar scenario is expected as no candidate, not even the women, ran with a pro-women platform.

Women, however, are not physically absent in the campaign sorties of local and national politicians. They pasted posters, distributed leaflets, joined motorcades and rallies, cooked meals for campaigners and candidates and decorated the stage. During rallies, women are also entertainers and were in charge of the cleanup afterwards.

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NORTH LUZON
1st Prize: BLISS Elementary School, Ilagan, Isabela
2nd Prize: San Nicolas Elem. Sch., Candon, Ilocos Sur
3rd Prize: Quirino Elementary School, Baguio City

CENTRAL LUZON
1st Prize: Concepcion Elem. Sch., Concepcion, Tarlac
2nd Prize: Sta. Maria Elem. Sch., Balibago, Angeles City
3rd Prize: Boton Elementary School, Olongapo City

METRO MANILA
1st Prize: Manuel Roxas High School, Paco, Manila
2nd Prize: Quezon City Academy, Quezon City
3rd Prize: Ronelon High School, Proj. 6, Quezon City

SOUTH LUZON 1
1st Prize: Pacita Complex National High School, San Pedro, Laguna
2nd Prize: Ibabao Kalayaan Mem. School, Cuenca, Batangas
3rd Prize: Langgam Elementary School, San Pedro, Laguna

SOUTH LUZON 2
1st Prize: Haring San Agustin, Baras Elementary School, Camarines Sur
2nd Prize: Red V East 8 Elem. Sch., Lucena City
3rd Prize: Tinago Elem. Sch. East, Ligao, Albay

EAST VISAYAS
1st Prize: Sulu-An Elementary School, Sulu-An Guiuan, Eastern Samar
2nd Prize: Inayawan Elementary School, Inayawan, Cebu City
3rd Prize: Leyte National High School, Tacloban City

WEST VISAYAS
1st Prize: E.T.C.S. II Bacolod City
2nd Prize: Bo. Obrero Elem. Sch., Iloilo City
3rd Prize: Albasan Elementary School, Aklan

NORTH MINDANAO
3rd Prize: Valencia Colleges, Valencia, Bukidnon

SOUTH MINDANAO
1st Prize: Labuan Central School, Labuan, Zamboanga City
2nd Prize: Bolton Elementary School, Bolton, Davao City
3rd Prize: Rizal Memorial Colleges, Davao City

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Mr. Henry Panela, Principal
Manuel Roxas High School
Winner ₱50,000

YOU AND YOUR SCHOOL CAN STILL WIN IN THE NEXT DRAW ON MARCH 21, 2001! DROP YOUR BOXTOPS AND LABELS NOW!

Per DOH-BFAD permit No. 0494 s. 2000

Slain cop's last words: Get me out

(From page A1)

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Martin's release was approved by the NPA unit holding him right after Ms Macapagal assumed office.

In Manila, Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste welcomed Ms Macapagal's order Thursday for a suspension of military operations (Somo) in 11 Southern Tagalog provinces.

"If we had this, (Martin's death) would have not happened," she told reporters. "But then that's the past."

In a statement, Legarda-Leviste urged the National Democratic Front to declare its own Somo.

She called on both the government and the NDF to "seriously pursue the all-out peace policy and sit at the negotiating table so as to prevent further loss of Filipino lives."

Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople urged the NDF to release the other NPA captive, Army Maj. Noel Buan, "without further delay."

Ople also sought an explanation from the military on the circumstances of Martin's death, including why no medical team was available to help him.

No inkling

Dagupon said he and the other Rangers had no inkling that their sortie in the mountain fastness of General Nakar that started March 5 would lead them to Martin.

The team had been dispatched to go after NPA rebels who raided the coastal town of Bordeos, Quezon, on March 2.

This was how Dagupon related the events:

Nightfall of Wednesday, the team was able to enter the rebels' first outpost because the guard had left his position.

"We went deeper and we came to about 5-10 meters from a hut at the center of the camp. The rebels may have detected us then. They started firing at us," Dagupon said.

In the exchange of fire, he heard someone calling out in Filipino from inside the hut: "I'm not an enemy! I'm Major Martin! I've been hit!"

Dagupon ordered his men to avoid firing at the hut, but they were initially skeptical, thinking it was a trap.

Meanwhile, the Rangers were receiving fire from the front and from behind a nearby hill.

"Who's your wife?" Dagupon shouted.

Came the response: "Nenita."

"Where were you captured?"

"Dolores."

"What's your serial number?"

"I have no serial number," said the voice, but it proceeded to rattle off a badge number.

This was what convinced Dagupon that it was Martin. Policemen do not have serial numbers, only badges with corresponding numbers.

The Rangers moved to secure the hut but were repulsed. On the second attempt, Dagupon and one of his men were able to enter the hut.

They saw that Martin had a major wound in the buttocks and another in his side.

Dagupon covered Martin's wounds and grabbed his personal possessions—P2,500 in cash, his ID cards, a rosary, pictures of his granddaughter and son, his police uniform, and his wedding ring.

The police officer appeared to have just had a haircut.

Dagupon also took a "baby Armalite" from the hut, which he gave to the other Ranger whose own rifle had jammed. It provided the fire cover when they left the hut.

4 options

Citing information gathered by an underground asset, the police source told the INQUIRER that the NPA unit that held Martin had laid down four options for his release.

He said the rebels had gotten tired of holding Martin because the officer was suffering various ailments.

Three of the alleged options for Martin were:

- He would be released to a member of the religious approved by his family, and the Left would negotiate in behalf of the NPA unit.
- He and Buan would be swapped for an unspecified number of political detainees.
- He would be deposited somewhere and allowed to go home to his family.

According to the police source, the fourth option was pushed by "unscrupulous elements" within the dissident movement.

"They wanted Martin's release to be paid for by big-time politicians, mostly media suckers. His freedom would be credited to the politician who would shoulder the 'billeting charge' during the entire period of his captivity," the source said.

The options were confirmed by the military source, who said these involved "a purely police intelligence effort to which we happened to be privy."

He noted certain variations, but said these were minor details.

The police source said that when the first option was brought to the President's attention, she did not immediately give the go-signal.

He said all details had been put in place, even the religious that would serve as intermediary and receive Martin.

Enriquez

The police source identified the intermediary as Fr. Raul Enriquez, spiritual adviser of the Martin family and a member of Gomburza, a national association of members of the clergy and laity.

Contacted yesterday in Sariaya town by the INQUIRER, Enriquez confirmed the information provided by the police source.

"At first, I was hesitant to get involved because I am fully aware of the psywar capability of the military and police. I did not want to be used," Enriquez said.

He said that it was during the initial days of People Power II that he was asked by some of his friends from the Left if he could serve as Martin's receiver.

He also said some of his friends from the military and police had been vigorously soliciting his cooperation in the release process, "since, according to them, I am known to Martin's family."

"At first, I was really puzzled why the military would have a part in this effort. That was one of the reasons why I did not easily accede to the request . . . But I was assured by the other persons involved that the military would not play an active role in the process," Enriquez said.

But when members of Martin's family also asked him to get involved, the priest said he had no more reason to refuse.

Abelardo and Nenita Martin are his close friends, he said.

Enriquez, however, laid down conditions. "First, the negotiation process would be in total secrecy—no media, no politicians, local or national. And the credibility of all persons involved should be ensured," he told the INQUIRER.

He said they then all waited for the President's go-signal.

"But no signal came—until the unfortunate happened on Thursday," he said.

The police source said the first target date and place of Martin's release was Feb. 14, in a barangay in Tanay, Rizal.

He said it would have been "a Valentine's Day gift to Nenita and Abe."

Peace efforts

Satur Ocampo, Bayan Muna president and former spokesperson of the NDF, said Martin's death would not jeopardize the ongoing peace efforts.

In a press conference yesterday at the Grand Men Seng Hotel in Davao City, Ocampo said it appeared that the incident was indeed a "chance encounter," as claimed by the military.

But he lamented how Martin was killed in the process. He also said Martin's death should be looked into as it raised questions on whether the military was providing soldiers adequate equipment and first-aid skills given its multibillion-peso budget.

"It's unfortunate that the incident happened while representatives of the NDF and the government were talking about the safe release of the (NPA) captives," Ocampo told reporters.

But he said what was important now was for the government and the NDF to ensure Buan's safe release.

This, he said, would only be possible through the intervention of a third-party humanitarian mission composed of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Sorsogon Bishop Jesus Varela and Obispo Maximo Tomas Millamena of the Philippine Independent Church.

Ocampo also said the NDF was not keen on the President's move to explore the possibilities of a unilateral Somo in certain areas.

He said the NDF was amenable to a mutually agreed Somo, but only in specific periods and on certain occasions, like the release of "prisoners of war," evacuation of civilians in times of calamity, and similar situations.

He said that in previous military-declared Somo, soldiers and policemen continued with their operations.

Appeals

In Laguna, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Southern Tagalog through its secretary general, Pastor Mel Abesamis, said Martin's death "could have been avoided had the government troops agreed to and followed the people's long appeal" for a Somo in the region.

Rep. Danton Bueser expressed sadness over Martin's death and urged authorities to look into it.

Bueser also called for the implementation of the Somo and called on both camps to observe all the conditions provided.

Leaders of the human rights groups Karapatan and Promotion of Church People's Rights in the region aired similar statements. ***With reports from Christine Avendaño in Manila; Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

US can't promise to extradite Erap

(From page A1)

reau of Investigation legal attache James Nixon and counselor for economic affairs Morton Holbrooke III.

The government has asked 11 countries and territories, including the United States, to deny political asylum to Estrada, diplomatic officials told Agence France Presse.

The governments of Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Palau, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand, as well as the Chinese territories of Hong Kong and Macau, had been contacted by the foreign department, the sources said.

The sources said embassy or consulate officials were summoned to the foreign department office to alert them to the possibility that Estrada could seek sanctuary to avoid possible arrest for alleged corruption.

The envoys were asked to inform Manila "if they have any information on any request by Estrada's camp," and to refuse him entry, one source said.

Under Manila's treaty with Washington, extradition may be refused if the offense in question is punishable by death in the requesting country but not in the other one, unless the first country assures the second that the death penalty will not be carried out.

The Philippine government is preparing to file criminal charges against Estrada for several offenses, including the nonbailable crime of plunder.

The US embassy officials "could not make a stand on (Estrada's possible extradition), although I did underscore to them that there are many states in the US which have the death penalty," Perez told reporters.

Perez said the US officials noted that in the Philippines, plunder is punishable by lethal injection.

He said the envoys also told him that certain governments, including Hong Kong and "many countries in Europe," follow the same policy of not extraditing a person charged with a capital crime.

Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Thailand also have extradition treaties with Manila.

The Estrada family and the governments of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the United States all denied a Thursday report in the Thai newspaper The Nation that the disgraced leader approached embassies of those countries with a request for political asylum.

Manila has warned foreign governments that giving Estrada asylum would be deemed an unfriendly act.

Stopped

Following other reports that the deposed leader had planned to slip out of the country, nervous airport authorities stopped the Lear jet believed to be owned by Estrada pal and San Miguel Corp. chair Cojuangco from leaving Manila around 9 a.m.

The passengers listed in the flight manifest of the eight-seat jet were San Miguel Corp. chair Cojuangco, Soledad Cojuangco, Ramon Ang and Leny Lacson. Ang is the vice chair of San Miguel and Cojuangco's right-hand man.

The plane, registered as RP-C6178, was not given an exit clearance by the Air Transportation Office because it was not scheduled to depart for Hong Kong yesterday but on March 14, according to an ATO official.

Last March 1, the Challenger Acro Air Corp., the registered owner of the aircraft, filed a request for a clearance to leave and return to Manila between March 14 and 16. Its request was granted four days later.

Curiously, the ATO yesterday received a flight plan by telex indicating that the plane would depart around 9 a.m., five days ahead of schedule.

Alarmed, ATO officials quickly directed the air traffic agencies to stop the jet from taking off without a properly dated exit clearance.

The officials were surprised to learn that the flight plan originated from Calgary, Canada. Upon checking with the Civil Aviation Authority, they were told that "the duty dispatcher of the previous shift" filed the plan.

"That flight plan is very unusual. And we have no way of knowing who filed it," an ATO official said.

The management of the Challenger Aero Air Corp., which is widely believed to be owned by Cojuangco, denied any knowledge of the flight plan coming from Canada.

Flight to Indonesia

The Challenger Aero Air Corp. has filed another request for exit clearance for another plane, RP-C8008, which is scheduled to leave for Indonesia between March 13 and 14. The request has yet to be approved.

The passenger listed in the request is Ramon Ang.

Cojuangco's private planes have come under close watch after a senior military official said the Armed Forces suspected that Estrada might try to slip out of the country with his friend's help.

While campaigning in Mindanao last week, Estrada was reported to have attempted thrice to fly to Indonesia, Hong Kong and Palau but these were aborted due to the heavy presence of military personnel guarding the airports there.

The official had said that a plane believed to be owned by Cojuangco landed and took off three times at the Davao City Airport on Jan. 20, the day Estrada's alleged plan to depart from that airport for Indonesia was called off.

Airport general manager Edgardo Manda said the double alert at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport would be raised until today. "The airport is still on alert. We are closely coordinating with the concerned line agencies, particularly the ATO, for any movement of medium and long-range private jets," he said.

Cojuangco often uses the hangars of UCPB, Bigaa and Tropical Airways at the Manila Domestic Airport for his jets, airport sources said.

'Paranoid'

President Macapagal-Arroyo has banned her predecessor from leaving the country, but the Supreme Court has stopped the government from filing charges against him before March 22, when its earlier ruling that he had lost presidential immunity would take effect.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said Estrada could not seek asylum abroad because he is facing purely criminal charges at home.

"He cannot get political asylum because the case of the ex-President is different . . . He is not being politically persecuted, he is just facing numerous criminal cases," Golez said.

Golez reiterated that the Philippines would protest if any government gave Estrada asylum.

Despite the foreign affairs department's request to other governments to deny Estrada asylum, presidential spokesperson Renato Corona said Manila would not ask other countries to block any application for asylum since the move would be "premature."

He added that the Philippine government might be seen as "paranoid" if it lodged such a request with other countries.

"*Mapahiya pa kami* (It could be embarrassing for us)" if Estrada didn't ask for asylum in the end, he said.

Other reactions

Senate Pro Tempore Blas Ople urged the Macapagal administration to help put a stop to the "demolition job" against Estrada.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. thought that the report that the ousted President was seeking political asylum in Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member countries was "funny."

"I don't think any Asean country would do anything to irk the administration of a nation that belongs to the same grouping," Pimentel told reporters.

In a separate news conference, Ople said Estrada's "opponents should stop putting him on a world tour."

He said it was possible that the reports served a "very specific political purpose"—to "discredit the (opposition's) campaign for the Senate in the May 14 polls."

On the other hand, saying it was her administration's "moral obligation to the Filipino people," militant groups urged President Macapagal to hasten the arrest and prosecution of Estrada to prevent him from fleeing the country.

"It is time to tighten the noose around Estrada's neck so he won't escape," said Bagong Alyansang Makabayan chair Rafael Mariano.

For its part, the party list group Bayan Muna claimed that while the US government dropped Estrada "like a hot potato during his last few months in office," it might someday grant him asylum. "Mr. Estrada was instrumental in having the Visiting Forces Agreement and globalization in place. These are US projects realized through Estrada's first-rate puppetry," a spokesperson for Bayan Muna said.

Mariano said Bayan and the rest of the 80 complainants in a plunder case against Estrada were conferring with the Public Interest Law Center on the filing of other cases against him. ***With reports from Donna Cueto, Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, Christine Avendaño, Juliet L. Javellana; and AFP***

Media . . .

(From page A1)

correspondents through a common website.

With a combined news-gathering network of more than 1,200 correspondents and field reporters and 133 radio stations nationwide, the partnership promises to deliver the biggest and most comprehensive coverage of the 2001 elections. More than 20 remote TV sites and two satellite vans for live remote broadcast will help ensure the speedy delivery of news during the elections.

Felipe Gozon, GMA Network president and chief executive officer, said: "This is first time that so many organizations are putting their contributions together. This formidable partnership of print and broadcast will ensure a deeper treatment of news regarding candidates and a more comprehensive coverage of the election activities and results."

INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez expressed confidence in the new partners of the coverage.

"We welcome the inclusion of new partners who will add a special dimension to the coverage and improve its reach. I believe that together, we will succeed in giving our people a wholistic picture of the candidates and a deeper understanding of the issues," Ms Romualdez said.

As its contribution to Eleksyon 2001, the INQUIRER will launch an ad campaign and spearhead an issues-driven, citizen-based coverage of the elections.

Voters education and candidate profiles will be highlighted regularly in the Sunday Inquirer Magazine and in a special section called "Voters Voice." Various programs with GMA Network will also be undertaken to provide comprehensive information about national candidates and their positions on critical issues.

INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot expressed his confidence in the multi-media partnership.

He said: "We had a productive and harmonious relationship with GMA Network in the 1998 elections. I'm sure the present partnership, with the inclusion of new groups, will be beneficial to our readers, viewers and listeners."

Let me vote, coed urges high court

(From page A1)

registration and amending an election law which prohibits the holding of registration 120 days before a regular election.

Special session

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the Senate was prepared to hold a special session to amend the Omnibus Election Code so as to enable unregistered young voters to cast their votes.

But while Pimentel said it was easier for the Senate to gather as many as 12 to 13 senators for the special session he doubted that the House would be able to muster a quorum.

Pimentel said the reason was that many congressmen were busy campaigning for the May 14 elections.

Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople said the Senate and House leadership could compel legislators to attend the special session.

Comelec Commissioner Rex Borra said the election body needs three months after the special registration to prepare for the May 14 elections, which meant that the elections would have to be moved to a later date.

Even if the special registration were conducted on Monday, the elections would have to be held on June 12.

No to postponement of May polls

But President Macapagal-Arroyo is against the postponement of the May 14 elections.

"This is not acceptable. The May elections must push through as scheduled," she said.

Presidential spokesperson Renato Corona said that Ms Macapagal was still prepared to call a special session to find a "legal remedy to the disenfranchisement of the first-time voters."

She said that the young voters missed the Dec. 27 deadline last year because many were not aware of the deadline.

"We must all join hands to find a means whereby they will be allowed to register and if the legal impediments are cleared, then they will be given the right to vote," she said

Sen. Renato Cayetano filed yesterday Senate Bill No. 2273 which seeks to amend Section 8 of Republic Act No: 8189, or the Voter's Registration Act of 1996.

The bill also seeks a special registration for new voters not later than April 2, 2001, "preferably on a weekend."

Ople also said he would also file a joint resolution seeking to empower the Comelec to set aside the 120-day prohibition period for calling a special registration before Election Day.

Militant groups yesterday threw their full support behind efforts of youth groups to push for a special registration.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said that the Comelec "is indefensible in its stubborn position that deprives millions of new voters their inalienable right to suffrage."

Bayan chair Rafael Mariano said the votes of the youth, many of whom took part in the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada, could spell a big difference in the May elections.

Youth groups like the National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP), College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP), League of Filipino Students (LFS), Anakbayan and Akbayan Youth are urging the Comelec to hold a special voters' registration.

Losing hair

Some students encamped outside the Comelec for four days had their heads shaved to dramatize their call for a special registration.

The rains did not prevent at least 50 members of the Akbayan-Youth clad in black raincoats from staging a picket at around 1:30 p.m. outside the gates of the Comelec, while students Johnny Acosta and Archie Talaue had their heads shaved by two other Akbayan members.

"Losing your right to vote is worse than losing your hair," Acosta said.

Emman Hizon, spokesperson of Akbayan-Youth and the Movement for the Advancement of Student Power, said Comelec officials could not blame young voters for being irresponsible for failing to register on or before the deadline last Dec. 27.

"We didn't even know that there was a deadline because the Comelec failed to inform the public," Hizon said.

Ma. Angelina Matibag, director for information and education of the Comelec, admitted that lack of funds was the reason the Comelec failed to undertake a comprehensive information drive for the May elections.

But she said the Comelec had periodically issued advisories to media regarding election activities.

She said the advisories were not enough to heighten public awareness of the registration period. ***With a report from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez***

Namfrel wants 'judge, accuser, opposer' out

(From page A1)

tional Press Club "sometime next week," according to Comelec insiders.

In a 15-page petition to the Supreme Court, Namfrel emphasized that Tancangco had long been critical of the group, even before her appointment as commissioner in August 1998.

Her accusations against Namfrel include, among other things, cheating in the 1987 congressional elections. Tancangco said Namfrel was guilty of "trending" and, with the collusion of Comelec officials, played around with 46 million votes.

Tancangco's charges were published as early as 1992 in a book "The Anatomy of Electoral Fraud," better known as the "Tancangco Report."

"By circulating copies of her findings to other Comelec commissioners in the form of a position paper, she acted as an opposer to our petition for accreditation," said Namfrel national chair Jose Concepcion Jr.

Tancangco "even declared during a Comelec hearing (last Feb. 26) that she stands by her findings. Her admission in open session is indisputable evidence of her prejudgment, but sadly, it is palpable to everyone else but her," Concepcion said.

Namfrel counsel Jose Bernas called it a "classic case for inhibition due to prejudgment. She admits to have a previously formed opinion on the matter and yet she refuses to inhibit herself. Worse, her bias is so fixed she is not even conscious of it."

But Tancangco, a native of Bustos, Bulacan, insisted it was Namfrel that had prejudged her position. "Contrary to its claims, my mind is not closed. My only point is simple: to make sure that the sources of the count are clearly identified and established."

In voting "no" to Namfrel's bid to conduct a quick count, Tancangco said her "studies reveal that in 1987, the Namfrel's OQC with regard to the senatorial vote count had discrepancies between regional totals and provincial and district breakdowns and a highly improbable fill-up rate. Its partial count was also greater than the final complete count of the Comelec."

"Moreover, Namfrel's efficiency in recording the sources of vote count is below satisfactory. Worse, it is not farfetched for Namfrel's quick count to include votes from precincts that are not even found in the Comelec list," she said.

Tancangco claimed she only wanted to "ensure that the same security and control measures are adopted by both the Comelec and the citizens' arm in coming out with official and unofficial counts."

She warned that "any discrepancy between the two counts can create public confusion, let alone mass deception, as to the real and honest results of the elections."

"Hence, any citizens' arm interested in undertaking a quick count should make clear its procedures and demonstrate its capability to conduct a fast and accurate vote count. This is precisely my reason for asking some more time to study the resolution on Namfrel's accreditation to conduct a quick count," Tancangco said.

Namfrel said that it filed its petition with the Supreme Court "not to pressure Tancangco into accrediting Namfrel, but to keep the Comelec's decision-making process unsullied."

Tancangco should be reminded that "by having accepted the post of a Comelec commissioner, she has imposed upon herself a more stringent and exacting standard and code of conduct, i.e., while donning the robes of a magistrate, she will, at all times and in all cases act with the cold neutrality of an impartial judge," Bernas said.

But Tancangco believes Namfrel is the problem.

"They think they have the monopoly of (what is) right. I'm just doing my job and it just so happened that I studied election administration for 15 years before coming here. So I'm coming in with a lot of historical data and experiences. Whatever (deficiency) the Comelec may have now, I want to

TANCANGCO

contribute my (experience). *Sayang naman ang pinag-aralan ko*," she told this reporter.

Comelec insiders, including two officials, rapped Tancangco for her "messianic complex" and for "acting like she's the (Comelec) chair."

But Tancangco dismissed Namfrel's and other critics' charges as lies. "These people are self-appointed messiahs of our democracy. And they couldn't accept me, a David fighting a Goliath," she said.

"What they're saying do not bother me. First, I can live with all this because my conscience is clear. Second, if I don't raise this issue, who will? To be different in an organization like this, which is controlled by vested interest groups, will certainly be met with resistance. And that's a professional hazard I'm taking," she told the INQUIRER.

Simple life

Tancangco said she came to the Comelec with a mission. "I'm bent on cleaning up the electoral system, not for power, not for money. I'm used to life in the academe as I have a simple life. I don't have a business, I'm not married, I don't have a child."

In a March 1991 interview with the INQUIRER, Tancangco, then still an associate professor of the University of the Philippines College of Public Administration, clarified that the fraud committed in 1987 did not imply that all Namfrel volunteers were party to it.

She noted that Namfrel's collusion with Comelec officials "stopped just before the commission level, in the reception and safekeeping committees."

The Tancangco Report, which covered electoral exercises from 1984 to 1989, had stirred a hornet's nest. It received bad reviews from, among others, former Dean Jose Encarnacion of the UP School of Economics who called the paper an "incompetent treatment of the subject."

Raul Fabella, now dean of the UP School of Economics, dismissed it as "tabloid scholarship at its best."

Dr. Mercedes Concepcion of the UP Institute of Population said that the author made a lot of assertions without citing sources.

Concepcion also said that "a number of assumptions are presented without supporting evidence, thus leading to certain unwarranted conclusions."

In another critique, Mahar Mangahas, president of Social Weather Stations, called the report "another example of (Tancangco's) tendency to leap to sensational statements across chasms of inconclusive evidence."

Tancangco had claimed that "the opposition jumped into my study after it concluded that fraud was committed in favor of the ruling party."

"I guess I'll always be identified with the opposition," she said.

Ten years ago, Tancangco said "the election process itself is flawed, but those in power do not want to correct the lopsidedness of the rules."

Early this week, she pointed out that "the electoral reforms that I'm fighting for are the same as those during the time of Marcos, Aquino, Ramos, Estrada and Arroyo."

Who is inconsistent?

"All the same, I'm consistent. *Pag sila ang nasa* (If they're in) power, *bad ako* (I am bad). Now, who is inconsistent?" she asked.

Tancangco also brushed aside below-the-belt charges hurled against her, like her alleged links to the camp of former President Joseph Estrada.

Claims that she is working for the opposition are "all lies," said the commissioner who admitted that in 1996 and 1997 she worked as a consultant to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

At UP, Tancangco is known as a protégé of Raul P. de Guzman, former dean of the UP College of Public Administration.

Tancangco and De Guzman are co-authors of "An Assessment of the 1986 Philippine Special Presidential Elections: A Study of Political Change through People Power," a publication of the state university.

De Guzman, a brother-in-law of Estrada, was reportedly responsible for Tancangco's appointment as Comelec commissioner.

In a March 6 memorandum to the Comelec, Namfrel said "if there is one form of partisanship, which the movement will readily plead guilty to, it is that against electoral fraud."

True to commitment

Namfrel also stressed it had not campaigned or engaged in electioneering activity in favor of or against any candidate or political party. "We have remained true to our commitment to ensure the conduct of honest and orderly elections," it said.

During the hearings on the Namfrel petition, opposers tried to discredit the movement by pointing out that some Namfrel officers or members "either ran for political office or accepted appointive positions in government," like former Namfrel chair Christian Monsod who later became head of the Comelec.

"Despite this, however, our opposers failed to impute even a semblance of partisanship on the part of Namfrel as an organization," said Namfrel lawyer Bernas.

Opposers to Namfrel's bid include former Sen. Rene Espina and Carlos Leongson, represented by lawyer Sixto Brillantes Jr. At one point, Espina alleged that Namfrel was funded by the US Central Intelligence Agency. The Namfrel he was referring to turned out to be a civic group organized sometime in the late 1940s.

For the 2001 polls, "the same spirit of *bayanihan* and dedication to nation-building that Namfrel volunteers demonstrated in 1984 and 1986 are once again needed in view of the difficult task of rebuilding a damaged nation and its institutions," Concepcion said.

"Our volunteers have offered their time and talent to achieve a credible exercise in the hope that this will translate to a better future for succeeding generations," he said.

Namfrel was organized on October 1983. However, its roots can be traced to as far back as the 1960s with the formation of the New Voters Registration Committee, the Citizens National Electoral Assembly (CNEA), the National Citizens Constitutional Movement (NCCM), and the Citizens National Committee for Referenda, Plebiscites and Elections (Cinacorpe).

Aside from their involvement in local elections, Namfrel volunteers also worked in the past 16 years as observers, trainers and administrators in at least 25 countries, including Argentina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Chile, China, Indonesia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Russia, South Korea and the US.

In 1999, Namfrel conducted its first international observation mission in Indonesia during the country's first democratic elections in over 30 years.

Namfrel officials

Aside from Concepcion, other members of the Namfrel executive committee are Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez, co-chair; Vicente Jayme, vice chair; Guillermo Luz of the Makati Business Club, secretary general; and Telibert Laoc, executive director.

Also in the council are Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, Msgr. Francisco Tantoco, lawyer Miguel Varela of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sharon Rose Joy Duremdes of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, and Sonia Ronda of the Council of the Laity of the Philippines.

Billionaires . . .

(From page A1)

Arroyo, one of the administration's 13 candidates, defended the PPC from charges that it was a coalition of the elite, saying that the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-PnM itself was filled with billionaires and millionaires.

But PMP senatorial candidate Edgardo Angara claimed the opposition was counting on an "X-factor"—that most of Metro Manila's working-class districts would vote for the opposition.

In a press conference in Victoria, Laguna, Arroyo said the PPC candidates were forbidden from mentioning the names of their rivals.

But then he asked local reporters to mention the names of the PnM candidates for him.

A local reporter mentioned ousted President Joseph Estrada's wife Luisa "Loi" Ejercito. Arroyo said she was worth P10 billion as the former president's conjugal partner.

When a local reporter mentioned the name of former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Arroyo said: "*Ay naku. Grabe yan sa corruption.*"

He claimed Lacson was the "richest candidate" as shown by his expensive campaign posters and vehicles.

Shake of the head

When the reporters mentioned Ricardo "Dong" Puno and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, Arroyo described them as "very rich," and shook his head.

Broadcaster Noli de Castro, a guest candidate of the LDP? "*Susmaryosep*," Arroyo exclaimed.

He said one candidate was also a billionaire because her family used to own the huge lot in New Manila where the controversial "Boracay" mansion for Estrada was built. He was referring to Jamby Madrigal.

"They have a good (campaign) line because it is not true," Arroyo said of the PnM's projected image as pro-poor.

Rep. Ralph Recto, another PPC bet, said the administration candidates had track records of being pro-poor. He cited senator and former Health Secretary Juan Flavier, known as the "doctor to the barrios," Arroyo, a human rights lawyer. He also cited himself, saying he had authored the first "social reform and poverty alleviation" law.

'Critical mass'

But based on the results of his camp's own in-house survey, Angara claimed that the opposition has the "critical mass" in Metro Manila to offset the PPC's lead in some Luzon provinces.

"These silent bailiwicks of the opposition in Metro Manila will be the big surprise of this senatorial election. This will be the X-factor for the political opposition," he said in a statement, although he did not identify the areas concerned.

The opposition coalition has been focusing its campaign efforts in Mindanao and Visayas provinces where its candidates are said to enjoy substantial support.

But in Metro Manila where thousands of residents participated in the People Power II uprising that toppled Estrada in January, the opposition has opted for smaller events rather than big campaign rallies.

According to Angara, the "People Power factor"—which he said influenced the Social Weather Stations survey in February that showed the PPC winning 8-5—would not count as much by May 14 since "the euphoria is fading."

Haydee twits NPC for tie-up yarn

(From page A1)

some of its members were biased for certain candidates.

Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo, a senior member of the NPC, said some of its members were engaged in press relations for certain politicians and candidates.

This casts doubts on the NPC's credibility to perform a quick count and serve as poll watchdog, he said.

Ocampo also said he did not believe that the NPC had the "organizational preparedness" to conduct the project.

He pointed out that elections in the NPC itself had been criticized as a "reflection" of the national elections and of national politics.

Ocampo said the "better role" that the media should play during the May elections was to monitor the conduct of the polls and report on these as accurately as possible to reduce the incidence of cheating.

Pangilinan also expressed concern over the NPC's capacity to deliver what would be expected of it in the conduct of the quick count and as official poll watch body.

"We are talking of 34 million votes here. The issue is not as simple as it looks. We are talking of only two more months to prepare for it," Pangilinan said.

He urged the Commission on Elections to approve a proposal by the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) to conduct a quick count and serve as the official watchdog in the May elections.

He said Namfrel had the track record in carrying out a quick count and a poll watch.

With a report from Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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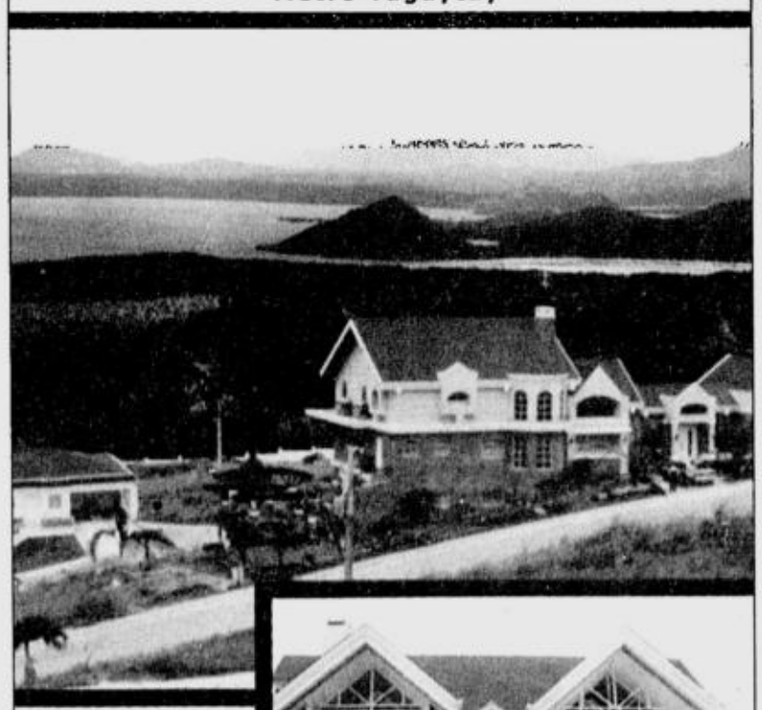

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The programme, which aims to maintain close links with the local filmmaking industry and tap its expertise in broadening students' learning experiences, includes the Cathay Filmmaker's Seminar Series with guest lectures from local and foreign players.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Applicants must have a recognized three-year diploma or university degree and be at least 21 years of age in 2001. Foreign applicants must also be proficient in English.

COURSE FEE
First year : S$8000 (+3% GST)
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APPLICATION DEADLINE: 31 MARCH 2001

Requests for application materials and enquiries should be directed to:

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Bata, 3 others gun for P100,000

By Mario Roxas

IDOL of the masses Efren "Bata" Reyes meets his Puyat Sports teammates in the classic P200,000 San Miguel beer "Supreme Masters of Billiards" 9-ball tournament this afternoon at Metropolis Star mall in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

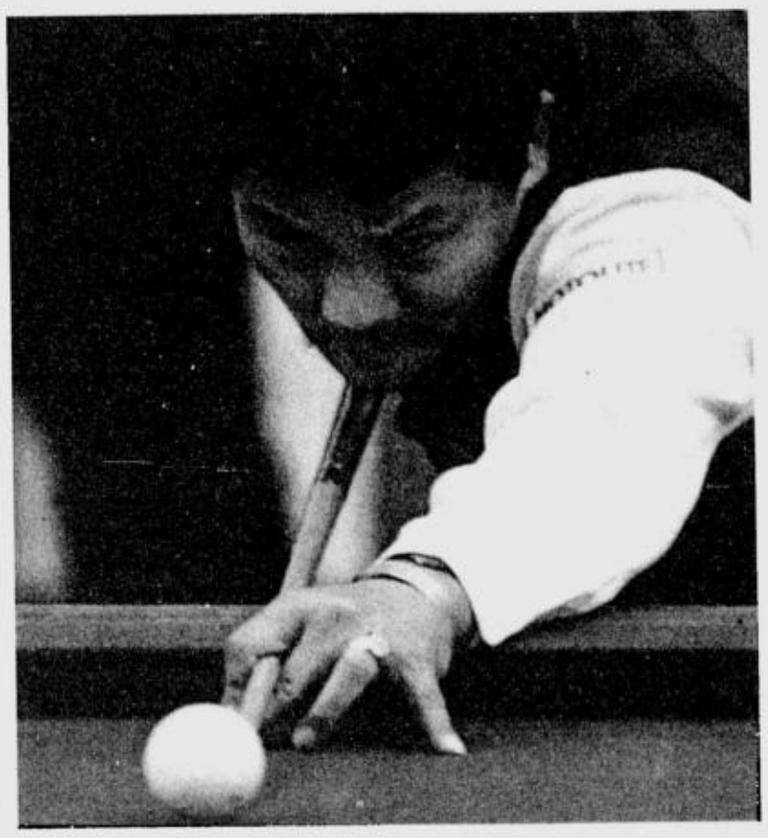
The event features Reyes, Francisco "Djanggo" Bustamante, Rodolfo "Boy" Luat and Leonardo "Dodong" Andam—stars of the popular new TV commercial of San Miguel Beer—in a one-day knockout free-for-all.

Reyes clashes with Andam in the opener at 1 p.m., and Bustamante takes on Luat in the second match, with the winners meeting in the finals at about 6 p.m. for the P100,000 first prize. The runner-up gets P50,000 and the two losing semifinalists P25,000 each.

The free-admission tournament will be staged at the main lobby of Metropolis Star. Viva Vintage TV will televise the matches nationwide on IBC 13 at 10 tonight.

Reyes as usual is the fans' favorite, but the odds are even on whether he could get past Andam to advance to the finals against the winner of the Bustamante-Luat race-to-13, the other tossup match. Andam upset Reyes in the finals of the SMB International Masters 9-ball tournament at Casino Filipino last June.

There will be a special match between two selected women players, Angeline Halili and Ces Marquez, to kick off a Puyat Sports-Viva Vintage TV project to start a Women's Pocket Billiards League here.



BATA Reyes: Top seed.

BUSTAMANTE

ANDAM

LUAT

Ginebra topples Tanduay

GAME TODAY *(Laoag City)*
4 p.m. – Pop Cola vs Sta. Lucia

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BARANGAY Ginebra put on the heat in the fourth quarter to scorch Tanduay Gold, 87-76, last night and spoil Dindo Pumaren's debut as a Rhummaster in the PBA All-Filipino Cup at Philsports.

Mark Caguioa, Alex Crisano and Jayjay Helterbrand stole the spotlight from the Gin Kings superstars, keying a raging finish for their fifth win against three losses.

Typifying the Gins' in-your-face brand of basketball, the trio fired from the three-point lane, worked double-time on defense and attacked the lane in the fourth to pull away from an otherwise tightly contested game.

"My second unit really delivered," said Ginebra coach Allan Caidic. "But still, we had strong performances from our starters early on."

True, Jun Limpot and Vergel Meneses were able to do their thing in the first half and early in the third but when the going got tough, the youngsters showed more forbearance.

In fact, that rah-rah attitude wore down the Rhummasters, taking the lead, 61-57, seven minutes left in the game.

Pumaren, released by Purefoods Wednesday night, could not do anything right for Tanduay, making only two points from the line and failing to put system in the Rhummasters' offense and defense.

Tanduay lost its sixth game against three victories.

Sensing the possibility of duplicating their loss to the Gins during their first encounter—where they lost grip of the game late in the fourth—the Rhummasters applied a tiring full-court press.

But instead of getting stymied, Caguioa and Helterbrand countered with superb three-point shooting and strong fastbreak finishes from quick, outlet passes.

Limpot led the Gins with 20 points and seven rebounds topped by a two-of-two, three-point shooting that bannered their 8-of-15 clip from the arc.

Willie Miller sank two free throws while Briones escaped with a fast break layup in the final minute as Batang Red Bull defeated Shell Velocity 65-58 in the second game and shared the top spot with San Miguel by posting its sixth win in 8 games.

Scores:

GINEBRA 87—Limpot 20, Caguioa 19, Meneses 17, Crisano 15, Helterbrand 13, Calpito 3, David 0, Ong 0, Magtulis 0

TANDUAY 76—Hawkins 21, Hontiveros 13, Cariaso 13, Realubit 11, Locsin 10, Balingit 4, Pumaren 2, Calimag 2, Arboleda 0

Quarter Scores: 19-15, 40-35, 57-53, 87-76

Letran posts 1st Grand Slam double

COLEGIO de San Juan de Letran made another entry into the NCAA book of records as it posted the first ever Grand Slam double overall championships in the league's 76-year-old history.

After their failure to book another Grand Slam title in men's basketball, the Knights ruled the men's and women's volleyball, table tennis, taekwondo and lawn tennis.

It finished strong in swimming, football and track and field to amass 231.5 points and capture the seniors overall plum against closest rival San Sebastian College, with 165 points.

Frustrated by Mapua Red Robins in the junior basketball championship after sweeping the double round eliminations, the Squires bounced back and dominated the chess, table tennis and athletics finals to edge perennial rival San Beda Red Cubs for the juniors overall crown.

With their runner-up finish in volleyball and swimming, the Squires survived their neck-and-neck battle with the Red Cubs as they gathered a total of 187 points against San Beda's 157.

Letran joined earlier NCAA double overall championship titlist Mapua Institute of Technology and former member De La Salle University when they won the Centennial and the 1999 Millennium overall titles.

Meanwhile, Mapua who holds the distinction of having won six double overall titles will hand over the hosting of the 77th edition of the NCAA to Philippine Christian University in a symbolic turnover ceremony which will be highlighted by the awarding of the general championship trophies.

PSC supports Jalasco's BAP

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission finished off whatever leadership fantasies the group of Quintellano "Tiny" Literal has over the Basketball Association of the Philippines as it pledged financial support to Freddie Jalasco in staging the South East Asia Basketball Association (Seaba) championship for men in the country.

Chair Carlos Tuason yesterday said the PSC would shoulder part of the P4 million needed for the hosting including the venue but the figure would still be taken up in the PSC board meeting next week.

"Definitely, Freddie (Jalasco) will get PSC support. There's no personalities involved, the PSC just wants to be consistent," said Tuason, stressing that PSC support came from POC recognition.

Relying on the strength of the Olympic body's recognition, Jalasco scored another victory after getting the financial backing he badly needed a day after the POC informed member-countries of the Seaba not to honor anything from Literal's camp.

"Staging the Seaba was the last-ditch attempt of Literal's group to eke out any measure of legitimacy for its claim to being the BAP," Jalasco said. "Failing in that, there will be nothing left."

Ateneo football champion

ATENEO once again dominated the recently-concluded Rizal Football Association competitions to capture the general championship of one of the longest-running age-group soccer events in the country.

The Ateneo booters capped another fruitful season by ruling four of five RIFA divisions topped by clinching the High School (18-and-under) championship.

According to Philippine Football Federation secretary general Chris Monfort, who is also head of the Ateneo Football Center, they also won the Aspirants (16-under), Midgets A/B (14-under), Midgets C/D First Division and Second Division (12-under) overall trophies.

"A total of 17 schools which fielded squads in 11 categories participated in this season's RIFA soccer competitions starting with the elimination phase last September.

"We all owe this success not only to the unwavering support of the university's athletics director Jose Capistrano Jr.," said Monfort.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Snake King 2. Justsaywhenjen 3. Beauty and Grace

Race 2—1. Latin Beat 2. Hyperbid 3. Bullhorn

Race 3—1. All Powerful 2. Vanicx 3. Lucky Swing 4. Wishing Well 5. Streamline

Race 4—1. Free Bee 2. Be Quiet 3. Vigor 4. Hacker

Race 5—1. Sheer Courage 2. Cyberspace 3. Never Mine/High Typhoon 4. Patikim

Race 6—1. Altron 2. Sukiyaki Blues 3. Affectionate 4. Early Warning 5. Madam Victoria

Race 7—1. Breakaway Artist 2. Always 3. Getta Pen 4. Dancing Dragon 5. Decathlete

Race 8—1. Super Strong 2. Cubano 3. Southern Gent 4. Boss DL 5. Like A Prince

Race 9—1. Great Year 2. En Carta 3. Kitana 4. Deputy Royale 5. Victoria Scarlet

Race 10—1. Clear Night Sky 2. Diva Dixie 3. Belle D Amour 4. Memorabilia 5. Diamond Forever

Race 11—1. Merry Weather 2. Fire Mouth 3. Pretty Pleasing 4. Top Liner 5. Aringkingking

Race 12—1. Big Kahuna 2. Gifted Galloper 3. Lucky Choice 4. Jetli 5. Tumatagintling

Race 13—1. King Edward 2. Sham Sham 3. Furthermore 4. Asalto 5. Perfect Gift

Delasin trails by 4; Rosales in Top 10

COMING off a long break, Dorothy Joy Delasin and Jennifer Rosales joined an assault of the course with birdie-riddled rounds of 67 and 68, respectively, to barge into the Top 10 after the first round Thursday of the $750,000 Welch's Circle K Championship in Tucson, Arizona.

The 20-year-old Delasin sprayed the Randolph north course with seven birdies to make up for the two bogeys as last year's Rookie of the Year gained a tie for fifth place, four shots behind surprise leader Jen Hanna.

Hanna grabbed the upperhand when she fired a 63, leading Sweden's Annika Sorenstam by two strokes.

Not to be upstaged, Rosales fashioned her own rousing start. She birdied the first three holes and picked up three more along the way against bogeys on the ninth and 15th to join a big group at 10th spot.

Also among the 10 players in Rosales' group are Korean stars Se Ri Pak and Grace Park who are both among the leg winners this season.

Rosales has won $56,949 in the LPGA so far built around a career-best third place finish while Delasin only has $19,510 in four stints with 13th as her best showing thus far.

Delasin was a recent visitor of the Philippine Airlines and played a round at the 54th PAL Interclub in Cebu City in the company of PAL executive Doming Duerme, among others.

DELASIN

Agojo Team Corporate Cup champ

THE AGOJO Team won the Group I title of the recent Corporate Cup held at the Fairways and Bluewater course in Boracay. The Agojo team entered the finals on Wednesday with a five-point lead and finished the day four points ahead.

Manolo Agojo led the team, whose members included Jun Suan of Cagayan de Oro, Rolando Aguilar, Alfredo dela Pena and Joel Yamyamin of Davao City.

Agojo said to celebrate the victory, he would treat friends at the Southwoods Golf and Country Club.

Osaka, ML Kwarta beat foes

GAMES TODAY
(New Cebu Coliseum)
4 p.m.—ML Kwata Padala vs Chariot
6:30 p.m.—Osaka vs M. Lhuillier

CEBU CITY—Osaka Iridology and ML Kwarta Padala beat separate rivals yesterday to share the lead in the 2001 CBL President's Cup at the New Cebu Coliseum.

Raymond "Magsy" Magsumbol hit a crucial jumper in the dying minutes to lift Osaka Iridology past Chariot Econo Cabs, 75-72.

ML Kwarta Padala banked on an 11-0 rampage in the last six minutes for a 61-57 come-from-behind victory over Guardo Shiatsu.

A quintuple tie could be forged among the five participating teams if Chariot prevails over ML Kwarta Padala, and M. Lhuillier hurdles its match against Osaka today in this event sponsored by Rudy Project, Thirsty Juices and Shakes, Nature's Spring, Adidas, Coca-Cola, Sunsport, Pow Designs, BBC's Printstop, Y101, Charlie@Rhythms, Angel Radyo, Killer Bee, Spirit FM, The Freeman, dyRF, dyLA, First FM and Energy FM.

The scores:

ML KWARTA PADALA 61—Lumantas 10, Guerrero 9, Relampagos 9, Abo 9, Libatog 5, Laygo 4, Cabrera 4, Celiz 4, Sampelo 2, Banudan 2, Abajon 2.

GUARDO SHIATSU 57—Maglasang 17, Duhig 10, Abellana 10, Arnado 5, Toring 4, Suarez 4, Elim 2, Tejano 2, Mosqueda 1.

Quarterscores: 18-14; 30-33; 42-52; 61-57

OSAKA 75—Franco 14, Wilson 12, Castro 12, Sta. Maria 9, Guzom 9, Magsumbol 6, Uy 6, Ramos 5, Cabanayan 2.

CHARIOT 72—Velasco 12, Manigo 11, Jumalon 10, Garcia 9, Albarillo 7, Caputulan 6, Cortes 5, Callao 4, Ursal 2, Licanda 2, Sumampon 1.

Quarterscores: 22-17; 40-28; 55-60; 75-72

CAR athletes dominate Baguio tilt

BAGUIO CITY–CAR (Codillera Autonomous Region) entries sparkled in the ongoing National Games of Special Olympics Philippines here by bagging four athletics and two bowling gold medals Thursday.

Alex Langgato toppled 498 pins to bag the boys' singles gold in bowling over teammate Alexander Rico (466) and Iloilo/Bacolod's Archie Aurelio (379).

Langgato then paired with Rico to rule the doubles event with 888. They bat Iloilo/Bacolod's Aurelio and Ronin Talaboc (791) and Davao/General Santos' Jayson Brocog and Trecy Barreto (623).

The other bowling gold medalists were Davao/GenSan's Cheryl Alviola and Susan Perez, 593 in girls' doubles and NCR 5's Catherine Uy, 377 in girls' singles.

CAR's winners in athletics were Amagouor Camarillo, who topped the boys' running long jump for boys 14 years old and above with 4.96 meters, Constancio Guilod, running long jump (13 and below), 4.81 meters; Chrislyn Anote, girls' 100-meter dash, 15.42 seconds, and 4x50-meter dash, 35.79 seconds.

GenSan took three golds—Marissa Olvina, 1.99 meters, girls' standing long jump for 14 above, and 4.98 meters, girls' shot put; and Ma. Corazon Mondejar, 2.01 meters, girls' standing long jump for 13 below.

75 fights slated in Ucap derby

WITH 150 roosters committed by Ucap members, it will be an exciting winner-take-all showdown between the President's Group, and the Chairman's Group when the "Special Ucap Excess Derby," featuring 75 fights, fires off at Mandaluyong Coliseum on March 15.

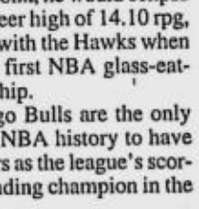
Comprising the Chairman's Group, bannered by sabong idol Patrick Antonio, and will be fighting under the Meron side are lawyer Ram Lopez, Tony Tan, Tito Reyes, Bobby Wong, Lito Orillaza, Boy "Lechon" de Roca and Biboy Enriquez.

Included in the President's Group headed by UCAP prexy Butch Macasaet and fighting under the Wala side are Joey delos Santos, Pete Rodriguez, Sonny Lagon, Pepito Ngo, Ramon Mencenares, Jet Fernando, Pol Estrellado and Vic Yu.

Aficionados are advised to keep their ticket stubs for a chance to acquire prized gamebirds owned by Ucap members. All winning cocks will be sold for only P1,500 to the lucky paying patrons whose stub numbers would be drawn.

76ers eye records

NBA NOTES



Henry Liao

THE PHILADELPHIA 76ers, who are likely to top the Eastern Conference and have the inside track to the best record in the entire NBA this season, could become only the second team in league history to have separate players as the NBA scoring and rebounding champion in the same season.

Allen Iverson, the 76ers' meal ticket, has leapfrogged past the LA Lakers' Kobe Bryant and Detroit's Jerry Stackhouse and now owns a solid lead in the NBA scoring race, averaging 31.2 points entering the March 8 games. The 2001 NBA All-Star Game MVP, the 6-foot Iverson is hell-bent to become the first ever 30-points-plus scoring titlist measuring 6 feet or under. "The Answer" paced the majors in point production during the lockout-shortened 1998-99 wars with a 26.8 clip.

Stackhouse and Bryant are neck-and-neck at the No. 2 spot after taking turns at the leadership earlier this campaign prior to Iverson's dominant takeover.

Stackhouse, a two-time All-Star who has assumed much of the Piston's offensive load this year following the transfer of Grant Hill to Orlando, is hitting at a 29.5-ppg pace. Bryant, evidently emerging as the reigning NBA champion Lakers' main go-to guy (with apologies to Shaquille O'Neal), was the league's leading scorer at the All-Star break but has cooled down a bit since suffering a sprained right ankle during a Feb. 20 game at Dallas (when he stepped on Shaq's foot during a collision in the final minutes of a victory) that forced him to miss three straight games (Lakers wins at San Antonio and against Atlanta and Orlando at the Staples Center wherein the Lakers bench stepped up and O'Neal dominated). Kobe's now norming "only" 29.4 scores every time out, probably diminishing his chances for a first-ever scoring crown.

Rounding out the NBA's top five in scoring are Toronto's crowd-drawer Vince Carter, 27.9 ppg. and O'Neal, 27.6.

Kobe and Shaq, whose much-publicized feud has been a distraction all season long, could become only the fourth pair in NBA history to rank among the top five scorers, duplicating the trick of Atlanta's Lou Hudson (fourth) and Pete Maravich (fifth) in 1972-73, Denver's Alex English (first) and Kiki Vandeweghe (second) in 1982-83, and again Vandeweghe (third) and English (fourth) with Nuggets in 1983-84.

Meanwhile, newly-acquired 76ers center Dikembe Mutombo has virtually locked up the rebounding championship for a second consecutive season, enjoying a sizeable edge over his nearest rival, O'Neal, the 7-2 Congo native, whom Philly acquired on trade-deadline day (Feb. 22) from Atlanta, currently is grabbing 14.12 boards an outing, far outdistancing Shaq's 12.8 rpg. Further back are Denver's Antonio McDyess, 12.2, Detroit's Ben Wallace (surprise, surprise), 12.0, and San Antonio's Tim Duncan, 11.8.

Should the 34-year-old Mutombo upgrade his rebounding clip by just one-tenth of a point, he would eclipse his 10-year career high of 14.10 rpg, set last season with the Hawks when he secured his first NBA glass-eating championship.

The Chicago Bulls are the only team so far in NBA history to have separate players as the league's scoring and rebounding champion in the same season.

NBA RESULTS

Charlotte 97, Orlando 84; San Antonio 93, Portland 79; Houston 99, L.A. Clippers 87. *AP*

Embattled Hunter retires

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—Shot put world champion C.J. Hunter will retire from athletics rather than battle the International Amateur Athletic Federation in the wake of a positive test for the steroid nadrolone, the sport's governing body in the United States said on Thursday. Hunter, husband of sprint star and triple Olympic gold medallist Marion Jones, allegedly tested positive for nandrolone on four occasions last year. *AFP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Agassi conqueror wins anew

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona— Surprising Spaniard Francisco Clavet followed up this week's first-round upset of Andre Agassi with a 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 fight-back Thursday for a victory over Argentine Guillermo Canas at the 400,000-dollar Franklin Templeton Classic. Clavet notched his second straight victory over Agassi at the desert venue on Tuesday, but didn't let his win go to his head as he steadied from 1-5 down in the second set to beat Canas. *AFP*

Mandaluyong A wins chess title

BY ROY LUARCA

FAVORITE Mandaluyong A routed surprise finalist Davao, 3-1, yesterday to rule the 2001 National Inter-Cities and Municipalities Chess team Championship at the Kaban ng Hiyas Auditorium, Mandaluyong City.

International Master Idelfonso Datu and Edmundo Gatus bested Sammy Yu and Al Macala in Board 2 and Board 4, respectively, as Mandaluyong A completed a coast-to-coast victory in the tournament that drew 48 teams.

With the outcome put to beyond doubt, Grandmaster Joey Antonio and deaf-mute Liolen Tubianosa settled for draws that formally handed Mandaluyong A the P100,000 top prize.

"I have a slight advantage, but when I saw that Datu and Gatus were winning, I offered a draw to Olay (Reggie)," said Antonio, who narrowly lost Board 1 honors to fellow GM Bong Villamayor of Angeles City (Air Force) A.

Both Antonio and Villamayor wound up with 7.5 points in the 9-round elimination phase, but Villamayor secured the P3,000 purse on account of more wins with 7 against 1 loss and 1 draw. Antonio finished with 6 wins and 3 draws.

Antonio cited his teammates, including Board 5 player Illan Perez, for their cooperation throughout the tournament sponsored by Viva Mineral water, Unilab Inc., DILG, PSC and Mandaluyong City.

"We were able to establish rapport. They listened to me and recognized me as their leader," said Antonio, who heaped praises on Datu, incoming head of Ateneo de Manila's Chess Department, for his steady play.

Powered by Olay, the 1998 Subic Open champion, Davao stunned fourth-ranked Manila in the morning semifinals, 2.5-1.5, and took the P60,000 runner-up prize.

Manila nipped Manila-San Sebastian College for third place and P40,000 via the tiebreak. They wound up tied at 2-2, but Manila won on the strength of IM Richard Bitoon's triumph over Manila-SSC's Ronald Dableo in Board 1.

Roland Salvador subdued Noel dela Cruz for Manila's other win while Rolenson Loyola and Marlon Ricafort leveled the count for Manila-SSC, which also held Mandaluyong A to a 2-2 count in the other semifinal, but also lost via the tiebreak.

The top four teams also received trophies during the awarding ceremonies last night. In attendance were Mandaluyong Vice Mayor Jessie Cruz and City Administrator Vic Victoria, who represented Mayor Benhur Abalos, and representatives from Viva Mineral Water, Unilab Inc. and the organizing National Chess Federation of the Philippines headed by GM Eugene Torre.

Other teams which pocketed cash prizes were Antipolo City (fifth), Torre-led Baguio City (sixth), Iloilo City (seventh), Muntinlupa A (eighth), Bacolod City (ninth) and Meycauyan (10th).

Completing the individual topnotchers were Mandaluyong C's Bengt Largo in Board 2, Mandaluyong B's Truman Hernaez (Board 3), Davao City's Jimmy Dano (Board 4) and QC-Vice Mayor Angeles' Julius Sinangote (Board 5).

Torre declared the tournament a rousing success and announced that the association's next project is the National Chess Championship set to start March 24.

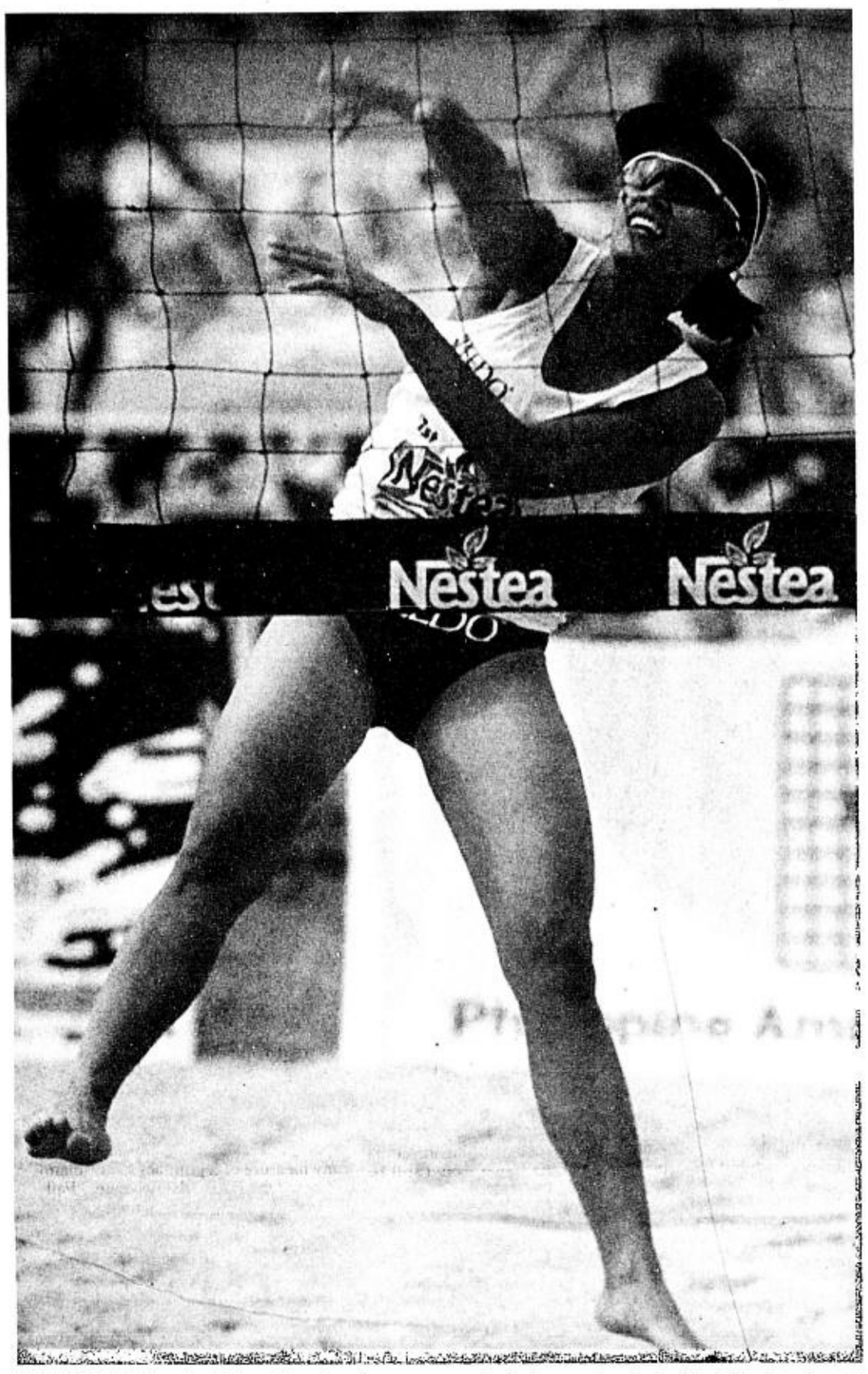
Luzon trounces Manila, bags Prisaa crown

ANGELES CITY—Luzon cushioned NCR's last-day assault by ruling the swimming competitions yesterday and won the overall title at the close of the Private Schools Athletic Association competitions here.

After seizing the top spot over the Manilans with an impressive outing in athletics last Thursday, the Luzonians upped their swimming gold haul to nine with victories in the 50-m freestyle, 400 and 200 medley relays.

The Luzon bets also grabbed 13 golds in track and field as they finished the four-day event with a 79-55-51 G-S-B tally.

NCR, the defending champion, settled for second spot with 70-81-60 tally, followed by the Visayas (55-30-50) and Mindanao (25-59-76), respectively.



PHILIPPINE Navy's Helen Dosdos does a smash during yesterday's First Nestea Beach Volley National Open at the CCP complex. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Dumaguete inches closer to volley plum

BY JUNE NAVARRO

BATTLE-TESTED Foundation University of Dumaguete inched closer to capturing the title as its bets came out unscathed and clinched a semifinal seat yesterday in the elimination round of the First Nestea Beach Volley National Open at the CCP grounds.

Spikers Eduard Bongcasan and Isidro Balbuena needed only two sets to drub Ray Acojedo and Jasper Jimenez of the Cebu Wild Ducks, 21-18, 21-19, and set up a semis showdown against Air Force Research Development Command.

Bongcasan and Balbuena shone the other day, walloping top-seeded squads General Santos City and Zambales to emerge as the only unbeaten tandem in the men's 16-team event sanctioned by the Philippine Amateur Volleyball Association.

"We are not taking any chances against AFRDC," said the 24-year-old Bongcasan in Tagalog. "A victory will mean a finals stint."

Air Force's Rustico Camangian and Rhovyl Verayo toppled the fearsome Batangas duo of Elmer Valdez and Albert Alano in straight sets, 21-19, 21-18 en route to the semis.

Later in the day, Bicol banked on the relatively cool weather to show Cebu Wild Duck the door with a 21-14, 21-14 thumping.

Bicolanos Choy Buquid and Mimi Dacorong thus advanced to the semis and will try to extract a finals slot against Ilonggo's Pride, which earlier downed Air Force, 21-19, 21-16.

San Sebastian's Sheryl Tumayao and Jennifer Buhawe reinforced their title aspirations with victories over De La Salle University (via default) and Navy I, 21-13, 21-10, 15-11, in the women's division.

Similarly, Navy II poses a threat as seasoned spikers Johanna Botor and Helen Dosdos have yet to taste defeat, winning over PSC New Star, 21-7, 21-13, after repulsing Air Force III via the long route, 13-21, 21-16, 17-15.

Michelle and Marietta Carolino of the Philippine Army remain as strong contenders after surviving Air Force III, 21-16, 21-19, earlier in the day.

Tennis listing slated

REGISTRATION is ongoing for the Philta Juniors Tennis Classic 2 slated March 17-18 and March 23-25 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Events on tap in the Group 2 event are boys and girls 21-under, 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under.

Deadline of entry is on March 15 at 12 noon. Entry fee is P200.

The two-weekend tournament will also serve as tuneup for local players competing in the Mitsubishi International Juniors Championships set April 1-8.

Hobie Challenge starts on Monday

BY DENNIS U. EROA

HONG KONG' S Mike Scantlebury's Honkin Hogs stakes his title as the 2nd Philippine Hobie Challenge starts on Monday in scenic Maya-Maya on the Batangas Coast.

Scantlebury will team up with Frenchman Nicolas Croly as they battle 12 equally determined teams from Australia, France, Guam, Hong Kong and the UK in this challenge dubbed as Asia's longest beach catamaran race.

In a determined effort to stamp its mark, the Philippines is fielding four teams in this 8-day, 160-nautical mile event ending at the Maricaban Bay Boat Club on the north Palawan Island of Busuanga.

The much-awaited event, which was held two years ago, started with a presentation of teams last night at Don Henrico's in Makati City.

Competitors will contend with the dangerous Calavite Passage and Apo Reef. Overnight camps will be set up in Golo Island, Mamburao, Pandan Island Resort and Apo Island.

Sponsors are White Mountains and SeaAir with Lifeline Arrows providing 24-hour emergency rescue with support coming from Orient Freight and Imajica.

Scantlebury and his crew topped the 1999 event which started from Lucena, Quezon, and ended at the famous Boracay Beach in Panay.

The Philippine teams competing are Bilis Biik (Mark Haswell/Jill Novera); Taal Lake YC (Peter Capotosto/Noel Lim); Catastrophe (Doug Hansen/Gia Veloso) and Waling (Rex Puentespina/ Rannie Lavina).

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: US NCAA—ACC Tournament, Quarterfinal #3 at 8 a.m. and AT&T Big East Tournament, Semifinal #1 at 4:30 p.m. on ESPN
NBA Action at 11 a.m. (r—7:30 p.m.) on ESPN
NBA - San Antonio Spurs vs LA Lakers at 11:30 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.) on ESPN, Spurs vs Portland Trailblazers at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
NBA Inside Stuff at 6:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
CNBL, Semifinals at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA - The Honda Classic, Second Round at 1 p.m. on Star Sports
LPGA Welch's / Circle K Championships, Second Round at 11:30 p.m. on ESPN

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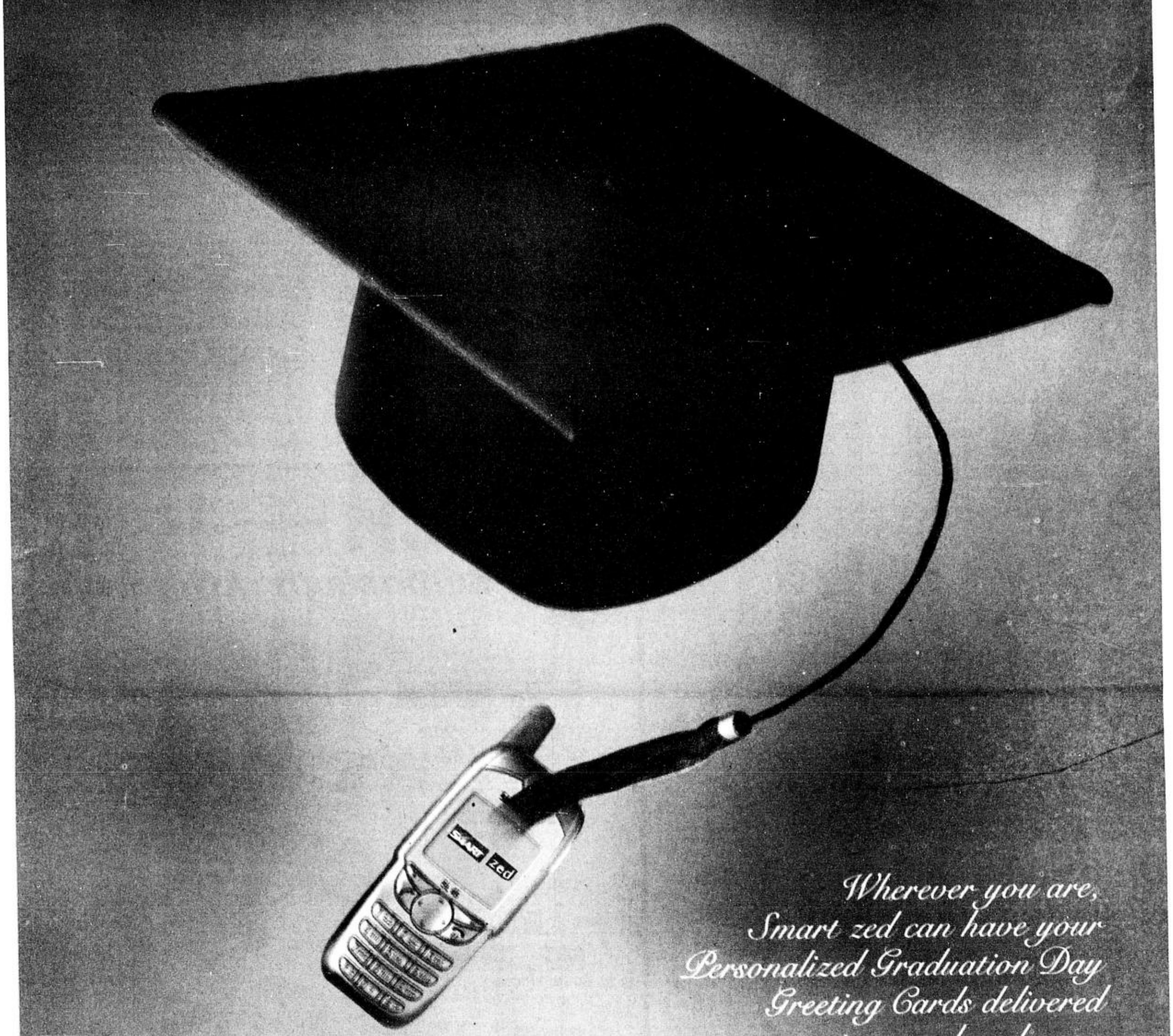

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■ Close illegal schools, DECS urges mayors
A24

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ Cops closing in on man who started fire that killed 8
A22

PCSO chair says ambulance mess only 'tip of iceberg'

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

THE ambulance mess involving San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada is only the tip of the iceberg as the new management of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office dug deeper into alleged irregularities committed by former PCSO officials.

A PCSO insider said the anomalies involving hundreds of millions of pesos were discovered a week after new PCSO chair Honey Girl de Leon ordered an investigation of the questionable disbursement of more than P430 million to beneficiaries identified by the former first family, including the distribution of 286 ambulances.

In a phone interview with the Inquirer, De Leon said the funds mess could also pin down former PCSO chair Cecilia Muñoz-Palma and other former officials of the charity institution, for violating the agency's charter.

"We are looking into their culpability in this irregularity," De Leon said, referring to the former PCSO officials. "But the thing is, the hands of the former board were tied. They could not do anything because the order came from Malacañang."

During the Estrada administration, the PCSO virtually cleared Mayor Estrada and his mother, former First Lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, of complicity in the funds mess.

PCSO/ A22

'Ninang' Loren gives advice to Charlene and Aga

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

"AGA, you follow Charlene. And Charlene, make sure Aga follows you."

This was the advice jokingly given yesterday by Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste to show biz couple Aga Muchlach and Charlene Gonzalez, who will be tying the knot on May 28.

Senate reporters had asked

'NINANG'/ A22

BETOY JOHNSON

FEELING GOOD about looking good, Salven Diaz gets ready to start working.

One-legged woman cop far from slowing down

BY MARLET D. SALAZAR

TRAFFIC Officer SALVEN Diaz, 69, is doing her job, and doing it well, even when she has only one leg.

For almost four years now, Diaz has been wearing an artificial leg even as she directs traffic at BF Homes in Parañaque City. She survived years of being a diabetic, losing a leg, and having an eye operation.

TALES OF THE CITY

In the 1970s, Diaz was a barangay *tanod* in a community in Baclaran. She started working in traffic enforcement after a few months. To make both ends meet, she decided to take on another job: She worked as a metro aide at night and as traffic enforcer during the day.

ONE-LEGGED/A22

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CITIBANK

Hold-departure order sought vs nine cops

BY JEROME ANING

A DEPARTMENT of Justice prosecutor yesterday asked a Manila regional trial court to issue hold departure orders (HDOs) against nine Western Police District policemen who shot dead two Muslim overseas contract workers whom they claimed were terrorists.

State prosecutor Peter Ong expressed fears that the policemen suspects, led by SPO4 Wilson Tibor, might attempt to slip out of the country to escape the double murder charges filed against them.

Ong filed his motion yesterday before the Manila RTC Branch 41. Judge Rodolfo Ponferrada gave the defense five days to submit its memorandum regarding the HDO.

Defense lawyer Emirito Salva also filed a motion to quash the arrest warrants issued against his clients. Ponferrada gave both parties 10 days to file their memoranda regarding the motion.

The defense had earlier filed a motion for reconsideration regarding the arrest warrants issued by the judge. Until this is resolved, the suspects will not be arraigned.

The prosecution's appeal for an overseas travel ban against Tibor and company came after the WPD director, Chief Supt. Avelino Razon, admitted that his men were having a hard time locating the suspects.

"As of now they are considered in hiding," Razon told the Inquirer in an interview. "They still reported here at WPD headquarters prior to the issuance of their arrest warrants, but now they've disappeared."

The fugitive policemen face detention without bail and the maximum penalty of death if found guilty of the charges.

The WPD chief said he has ordered Tibor's one-time superior, District Intelligence and Investigation Division head Supt. Jonathan Miano, to intensify the hunt against the suspects so that they could be presented to the court for trial.

The other accused were SPO4 Remigio Estacio, SPO4 Julian Siriban, SPO3 Edgardo Abaga, SPO2 Eduardo Ramos, PO3 Randy Dimayuga, PO3 Ronald Hernandez, PO2 Philip Malindog and PO1 Ignacio Garlan.

The policemen are accused of killing Esmael Omar and Akmad Samin during an alleged shootout on Globo de Oro Street in Quiapo, Manila on June 8, 2000.

Tibor, then the operations officer of the District Police Investigation Unit which is under the DIID, headed the team. The other suspects were under him.

The slayings triggered an outrage in the country's Muslim community after witnesses surfaced and claimed that Akmad and Omar were unarmed and shot in cold blood.

The victim's families said Akmad and Omar were overseas contract workers who were preparing their travel papers for their next trip.

The suspects said they were forced to fight back because the two men were armed with a .38-caliber pistol and a grenade and were about to attack them.

Tibor cited a military intelligence report naming Omar as a Moro Islamic Liberation Front commander who came to Manila heading a team that would sow terror during the Independence Day celebrations and create a diversion for Islamic rebels fighting government troops in Mindanao.

Akmad was reportedly Omar's right-hand man and bodyguard.

Tibor is the president of the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association Inc., which groups all WPD members who are non-officers.

Fake policeman nabbed for Lawton extortion

A FAKE policeman who reportedly extorted money from traffic violators at the Lawton Interchange in Manila was arrested by a legitimate policeman yesterday morning.

Antonio Mata Jr., 33, married and a resident of Villa San Juan, Sto. Tomas, Pasig City, was caught after a brief chase near the Quiapo Bridge by PO2 Francisco Dalita of the Plaza Lawton police community precinct.

Mata, who was wearing a police uniform complete with a badge and a .38-caliber firearm, posted himself on the street in front of the Metropolitan Theater and pretended to direct vehicular traffic.

Mata's alleged extortion was discovered after jeepney driver Noel Somoray, 39, went to the community precinct to complain that the suspect extorted P200 from him for not wearing a seatbelt and uniform.

Somoray said he wanted to give the bribe money but he became suspicious when Mata tried to sell him a policeman's fake badge.

Accompanied by Somoray, PO1 Dalita confronted Mata, who said he was a police officer 3 from the city's traffic police.

PO1 Dalita said he invited Mata to come to the precinct to explain. But Mata suddenly bolted and ran toward Quezon Bridge.

After a brief chase that ended in Quiapo, the real policeman was able to catch the phony policeman, whom he handcuffed and brought to the precinct.

Seized from the suspect was his firearm, a fake WPD batch and uniform. Mata was detained and charged with extortion, usurpation of authority, resisting arrest, and illegal possession of firearms and ammunition. *Jerome Aning*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, March 10, 2001
1st Week of Lent

1st Reading: *Dt 26:16-19*
Gospel: *Mt 5:43-48*

Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said: *Love your neighbor and do not do good to your enemy.* But this I tell you: Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in Heaven. For he makes his sun rise on both the wicked and the good, and he gives rain to both the just and the unjust.

If you love those who love you, what is special about that? Do not even tax collectors do as much? And if you are friendly only to your friends, what is so exceptional about that? Do not even the pagans do as much? For your part you shall be righteous and perfect in the way your heavenly Father is righteous and perfect."

Commentary:

The invitation to Gospel perfection sounds more urgent today. We are summoned even to love our enemies and pray for our persecutors. These are real indicators whether we truly believe in the God and Father of our Lord Jesus the Christ, who showed us such outlook and ways. He rebuked and challenged his disciples to turn away from their selfish and exploitative ways, but up to the end his heart was open to them. He prayed for them and forgave them, so that they might be freed from their conditioned ways and find liberating alternatives.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Discharge of accused as state witness—The discharge of a defendant, in order that he may be called to testify against his co-defendants, is within the sound discretion of the court; the discharge of an accused in order that he may be utilized as a state witness is expressly left to the sound discretion of the court. Indeed, the Court has the exclusive responsibility to see that the conditions prescribed by the rule exist. For the law seeks to regulate the manner of enforcement of the regulations in the sound discretion of the court. The grant of discretion in cases of this kind under this provision was not a grant of arbitrary discretion to the trial courts, but such is as to be exercised with due regard to the correct administration of justice. [Citations omitted.] [*Per Curiam, En Banc,* People v. Bariquit, G.R. No. 122733, October 2, 2000].

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Cops closing in on man who started fire that killed eight

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A SPURNED suitor of one of the women killed in a Valenzuela City fire that also claimed the lives of seven other people, including a 3-year-old girl, has been charged with arson before the City Prosecutor's Office.

But police have yet to arrest the young man suspected of setting on fire the two-story house of Gloria Gibelagen, at 57 C. Molina St., Bartolome Subdivision, Barangay Viente Reales.

They have also withheld the suspect's name pending his arrest, said Chief Insp. Efren Yadao, the city fire marshal.

Killed in the fire were sisters Michelle, 18, and Rochelle Gibelagen, 16, and daughters of the owner; Danny Cubacob, 25; his live-in partner Alma Karen Mendez, 18; their daughter Roma Mendez, 3; Alma's mother Julieta, 35; and another live-in couple, Ryan, 25, and Michelle, 24, whose last names are still not known.

Even the house pet, a dog, was not spared in the fire that razed for almost two hours.

Police said they were able to identify the suspect based on testimonies of witnesses who said they had seen the young man leave the house minutes before it went up in smoke at about 7:30 a.m. last Sunday. They also told fire investigators that the suspect was the last one they saw leaving the house before the fire.

The fire started on the ground floor of the house and immediately spread, scorching to death its eight occupants and damaging at least P5 million in properties.

Yadao said the suspect might have set the house on fire after he was rejected by one of the Gibelagen sisters. The other victims were tenants of Gibelagen.

He said the suspect could have started the fire by throwing a piece of burning cloth onto heaps of rags.

"At this point, we're basing our case on circumstantial evidence," Yadao said in Filipino. "But it is more likely that it was the suspect who really started the fire."

Investigators are waiting for the results of the examinations conducted by the PNP Crime Laboratory on the victims' bodies.

They are trying to determine if the suspect had poured gasoline on the victims while they were sleeping before he started the fire, Yadao said.

Why did Major Martin have to die?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

ARMY scout rangers from the New People's Army (NPA) rescued Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin after more than a year of captivity. Unfortunately, he died while in the custody of his rescuers.

Such is the paradox of life.

The grief that Martin's family feels must be unfathomable. No amount of sympathetic words can possibly assuage that sorrow.

* * *

Reports say the Scout Rangers on patrol chanced upon an NPA camp in the mountains of Quezon. A firefight ensued. The rebels fled, leaving Martin with a bullet wound in the buttocks.

More likely, the bullet that hit the former police chief of Dolores, Quezon, came from the side of the Scout Rangers.

But the military blames the rebels for Martin's wound, saying they could have shot their captive before fleeing.

* * *

This writer disagrees with the military claim.

NPA insurgents are not like Moro rebels or terrorists who allegedly kill their captives when they're cornered by government troops. That's what the Moro rebels supposedly did to a Catholic priest and some teachers in Basilan last year. The Moros allegedly killed their captives when they were cornered by the military.

Martin's captors had probably become fond of him because of their close contact with him for a little less than two years. It's the Stockholm syndrome in reverse. In the Stockholm syndrome, the kidnap victim becomes fond of his captors after awhile.

* * *

How come the rebels did not suffer any casualties while one of the Scout Rangers was wounded?

The elite Army troopers surprised the enemy, which was a big advantage on their part.

But how come the NPAs were able to escape and leave Martin behind?

The reason is obvious: The Scout Rangers probably didn't have enough training in shootouts. *Baka naman naduwag sila* (They could have gotten scared).

* * *

Satur Ocampo, former spokesman of the leftist National Democratic Front (NDF), blames the Macapagal administration for Martin's death.

"It is unfortunate that Martin had to die this way," Ocampo said. "He was to be released in the soonest possible time but the President and her AFP did not speed up the work for his release."

Ocampo didn't know what he was talking about. The government has been negotiating for the release of Martin and intelligence officer Maj. Noel Buan from their captivity.

By the way, why didn't Ocampo help in working out for the release of Martin and Buan?

Dakdak ka nang dakdak, wala ka namang ginawa.

* * *

The fact is Ocampo has a big influence over the NPA because he was allegedly one of them. I think he still has contact with the NPA rebels.

But this former newsman has allegedly not done anything to work for the release of both Martin and Buan.

* * *

The hands of Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva and Deputy Commissioner Ray Allas are tied when it comes to reshuffling personnel in the bureau.

Corrupt and abusive customs personnel cannot be reassigned because of that stupid election ban.

Take, for example, Joey Yuchongco and Darwin Navarro, both of whom are the subjects of many complaints from brokers. Yuchongco and Navarro, son of retired PC general Pedro Navarro, have allegedly been harassing brokers and importers by holding their cargoes.

The cargoes are supposedly only released after the importers or brokers have "come across."

Deputy Commissioner Allas, who is the direct superior of Yuchongco and Navarro, says he cannot reassign them because of the election ban.

* * *

Another customs official, Lourdes Mangawang, collector at the Zamboanga City port, goes around the city carrying a gun, according to my sources.

One of her predecessors at the Zamboanga City port was murdered.

One-legged woman cop . . .

(From page A21)

Because she is a diabetic, a small wound on her left foot grew. Doctors eventually advised amputation to prevent further damage.

"At first, I was reluctant," Diaz recalled, speaking in Filipino. "I was thinking, how could I possibly continue working if I only had one leg? But the doctors were able to convince me later on." That was in 1996. Eight months later, armed with determination, she requested some local officials to help her get an artificial leg. The cheerful Diaz got her wish in May 1997.

Her health problems didn't end there. She was diagnosed with cataract in both eyes a few months after her leg operation. Again, she asked help from a local official.

Soon, she was back in the operating room. "They're actually as good as before," she said of her eyes.

Still and all, Diaz is not about to stop working even when she is nearing retirement.

"Perhaps, I'll set up a small business when I'm done with traffic," she said with a chuckle. "I don't like slowing down. It's like I'm waiting for my death if I'll just stay home and do nothing."

Back to work

The artificial leg hasn't stopped her a bit from doing what she enjoys doing. A year after she got the leg, she was back on track as a traffic enforcer. She was initially assigned to the busy streets of Baclaran and to Roxas Boulevard.

"I was overwhelmed by the huge number of cars and motorists," she said. "It was like nobody would hesitate to bump you any time. It was pretty scary, but I learned to live with it."

The jolly Diaz related how she was able to raise her two sons and send them to school. Both sons have stable jobs now and support their own families. Diaz already has nine grandchildren.

A traffic enforcer like her earns P251 a day. But despite her long years of service, she is still categorized as a casual employee.

"One local official promised I would soon be regularized, but that remains to be seen," she said.

Well-loved

People have been known to yell or even curse traffice enforcers. Diaz applies "reverse psychology" when she finds herself in such situations. "When they shout insulting remarks, I smile back. There's no use yelling back because I understand them, it's all because of the traffic."

Always ready with a smile, Diaz is a friendly sight among regular motorists in BF. Children often ask her to whistle for them using her fingers. "They love it when I do that," she said.

Most people have stereotyped traffic enforcers as people wearing striking colors, their skin darkened by constant exposure to the sun. Many traffic enforcers often look cranky because of the scorching heat or the rains. Diaz is the exact opposite.

When working, Diaz, or "Madonna" as she is fondly called, is all made up and wearing her yellow and black uniform, boots and black hat. She also colored her hair.

Why does she wear makeup? She grins, "No special reason at all. I just feel good when I look good going to work." ***With a report from Mildred T. Fragante***

'Ninang' Loren . . .

(From page A21)

Leviste what advice she was giving the two popular actors who visited her at the Senate yesterday to ask her to be one of their godparents in their wedding in Baguio City.

People at the Senate, which has been eerily quiet for some weeks now due to the recess, came out of the woodwork to flock to the fifth floor upon learning of the couple's presence.

Gonzalez told reporters that Leviste was the first one she and Aga approached, as they finalize their wedding plans.

She said they plan to have eight pairs of wedding sponsors, from family, show business and politics.

Former Speaker Jose De Venecia will be another godparent, according to Gonzales, who will turn 28 in May. She said she could not identify the other godparents until they got their approval.

Muchlach, 32, said he and Charlene wanted Leviste as their ninang, because "we've always looked up to her and we've always believed in her."

He said that they also consider Leviste as a friend who is very approachable and simple.

Leviste quipped to reporters that she told Muchlach he should be a good boy because Gonzalez is a beautiful person.

Turning serious, Leviste advised the couple to love each other. She said passion and infatuation tend to fade after a few years of marriage.

"What's important is that they have a happy family, that they give in to each other and understand each other," she told reporters.

"Let us not aspire for a perfect marriage," Leviste added. "There is no such thing. We have differences as individuals."

Of course, she said, the couple always "can run to their ninang" if they have problems in their marriage.

"But I don't foresee any problems," she said. "Both are good-natured individuals and are of age. *Matanda na nga si* Aga, *eh*."

Mandaluyong fire leaves 100 families homeless

AT LEAST 100 families were forced to leave their houses after a two-hour fire burned down some 70 shanties in Mandaluyong City yesterday morning.

The fire damaged an estimated P1.5 million in properties, according to SFO2 Avelino Caya of the Mandaluyong fire station. No one was reported injured, he said.

Caya said the fire started in the house of Maribel Nalangan at No. 30 Agudo corner Kapalaran Streets in Barangay Barangka Drive at about 11 a.m.

The fire lasted until about 12:30 p.m.

Caya said most of the houses were made of plywood and other combustible materials, making it difficult for the fire fighters to put out the blaze.

He pointed out that the firemen were also caught in heavy traffic that further contributed to the delay in their response to the fire.

Fire fighters from the cities of Manila, Quezon and parts of eastern Metro Manila like Pasig, Marikina and San Juan helped in putting out the fire.

Residents claimed they saw an alleged drug addict setting Nalangan's house on fire. But investigators have not confirmed this.

Agnes E. Donato

PCSO chair says ...

(From page A21)

But Danilo Santos, assistant manager of the PCSO public relations office, explained that the former officials of the charity office did not really conduct an in-depth investigation of the irregularities as alleged by former PCSO board member Sr. Christine Tan.

De Leon herself defended her move to reinvestigate Tan's allegations, saying that despite the Senate inquiry, "the issue had never really died."

"As soon as I took office, I had been hounded by cause-oriented groups and other concerned citizens asking me to find out what really happened," De Leon said.

She said that while the former PCSO board might have been remiss, the responsibility lay primarily on Estrada as head of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, which distributed the ambulances to beneficiaries.

"What's irregular here is that those ambulances were released in 1998 but until now, the LMP could not produce any document for 186 units," De Leon pointed out.

Of the 286 PCSO-donated ambulances distributed by the LMP, 55 were released by the Office of the President itself without the required deed of donation.

Some 121 units were released by Malacañang to the LMP but until now, the LMP has failed to produce deeds of donations duly signed by the recipients, while 10 units directly released by PCSO to the LMP had no documentation at all.

De Leon said that based on her own inquiry, then President Estrada took all the units purchased by the PCSO to the detriment of other charitable institutions which badly needed the ambulances.

"To the last unit, talagang sinagad, for as long as there were units that could be had, they would take these from the PCSO," De Leon said.

She said Mayor Estrada should produce the necessary papers by next week. Otherwise, she said, the PCSO would be forced to file graft charges against those involved in the irregularity, including the San Juan mayor.

Cop shoots 2 women

By Philip C. Tubeza

POLICE are hunting down another policeman who accidentally shot two women during the robbery of a passenger jeepney in Cubao Thursday night.

The Central Police District is trying to find out the identity of the policeman who injured Jane C. Dobouzet, of Mayapis, Makati City, and Leonela Sabido, of Bortante, San Roque II, Marikina, said Supt. Salvador C. Duran, Cubao police station chief.

The unidentified policeman accidentally shot the women on their faces when he tried to arrest Alejandro Balvin, 18, of Bagong Nayon 3, Padilla Street, Cogeo, Antipolo, one "Jayson" Montero, and one alias "Damulag."

The three men allegedly stole the cell phone of Annalyn Ragindin and the watch of Renato Sibugan before trying to escape.

An angry mob captured Balvin, but lost Montero and Damulag in the dark alleys of Cubao.

The unidentified lawman, after realizing his blunder, also escaped in the confusion.

Driver Lorenzo Felices told police he was on Aurora Avenue driving towards Cubao from Antipolo when the three suspects held up his jeepney around 10:45 p.m.

"We just reached 15th Avenue when they suddenly took out their knives and announced the holdup," Felices said.

While the suspects took Ragindin and Sibugan's belongings, the unidentified policeman shouted to the suspects to stop and surrender.

He also ordered the suspects to return to passengers their valuables.

But the suspects refused and tried to fight their way out of the jeepney.

The policeman, not wanting to let the suspects escape, pulled out his service firearm and fired at the suspects.

Unfortunately, he hit Dobouzet on the cheek. The bullet came out of the victim's other cheek and hit Sabido's cheek, Duran said.

The two women were later taken to the St. Luke's Medical Center and are now in stable condition.

In the confusion, the three robbers and policeman escaped.

But an angry crowd however went after Balvin and collared him. He is now detained at the Cubao police station.

Police yesterday charged Balvin with robbery before the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

"My investigators went to the suspects' alleged hideout in Antipolo but they did not find the other culprits," Duran said.

He added he also ordered his men to coordinate with the Antipolo police and find out if the unidentified policeman is a member of their force.

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PAL to share Naia II with 2 other airlines

BY TJ BURGONIO

THE NATIONAL flag carrier Philippine Airlines will now have to give up its exclusive use of the modern Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal 2 and share space with other commercial airlines.

After nearly two years of catering solely to PAL, Naia terminal 2 would be opened for use to other airlines starting next month as part of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration's effort to level the playing field in the airline industry, airport officials announced yesterday.

Speaking at a press forum, airport general manager Edgardo Manda said the move was "aimed at shattering PAL's perceived monopoly of the airline industry because of the closeness of owner Lucio Tan to ousted President Estrada.

"The public perception is that terminal 2 is only for PAL's use," Manda said. "They say Lucio Tan obtained concessions at the airport because of his closeness to the Estrada administration. Now, we must shatter this perception. And to ensure level playing field, we should give the other airlines a chance to use terminal 2."

Since it started operations in October 1999, Naia 2 has been home to PAL's international and domestic operations--an arrangement some sectors claimed had the approval of deposed President Estrada.

Curiously, PAL has no existing contract to use Naia 2 exclusively. Airline executives had asked former general manager Antonio Gana to be granted use of the terminal but they were turned down, Manda said.

But apart from having to break free from its image as a "crony airline," PAL is also having difficulties paying its monthly dues for the use of Naia 2 to the Manila International Airport Authority.

PAL has standing arrears of P1.2 billion. Of the average P74 million in monthly fees, it manages to pay an average P52 million, according to airport officials.

"In fairness to PAL, we have been talking to them and they're willing to settle their accounts," Manda said. "And I told them to show good faith and good will to the new government that you're willing to help."

He added he does not want to pressure PAL into paying its arrears, noting that the airline is now under receivership.

So far, Singapore Airlines and Air France have already expressed interest in using the facilities of Naia 2, also called "Centennial Terminal," but they have yet to work out between them the available time slots for their flights, aside from PAL's, Manda said.

It would be practical for these two airlines to be able to use the terminal because they have common ground handling personnel, he said.

Manda also doused fears that opening Naia 2 would cause problems since the terminal is only equipped with two conveyors.

Close illegal schools, DECS urges mayors

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THE DEPARTMENT of Education, Culture and Sports has asked Metro Manila mayors to crack down on illegal schools, claiming that the local governments were partly to blame for their proliferation.

DECS officials asked the mayors to deny the proper permits to those seeking to operate schools unless they are cleared by the education department.

Luis Lao, legal officer of DECS-NCR, said his department has been conducting "exploratory meetings" with representatives of local governments regarding their role in the elimination of illegal institutions.

Education officials met with Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. and representatives of other local governments last month to urge them to pass an ordinance that would bar the issuance of business permits to schools not registered with DECS.

"It's easier for mayors because they can immediately close down (schools) operating without permits," Lao said in a phone interview yesterday.

Records from DECS-NCR showed there are 337 illegal elementary schools and 59 illegal high schools in Metro Manila. A private schools association earlier claimed there are about 1,000 illegal learning centers nationwide.

Lao said DECS came up with the figure of illegal centers when it conducted the National Elementary Achievement Test and the National Secondary Aptitude Test.

"The DECS' job is to identify illegal schools, and we already have a list," Lao said.

He said under existing rules, the education department is authorized to close down illegal schools, but Lao admitted to a problem in its implementation.

DECS closed down the Lani Casipe Learning Center in Pasig City last year, but its owner appealed to former education Sec. Andrew Gonzalez, who granted the center time to comply with DECS requirements.

Lao is hoping that under the administration of newly appointed DECS chief Raul Roco, the DECS will focus its attention to the problem.

"It's really a matter of policy because it's going to affect many students enrolled in the schools, so any order should emanate from the DECS secretary himself," Lao said.

Illegal schools take away about 10 percent of enrollees from registered schools annually because of lower tuition, said the Federation of Association of Private Schools Administrators.

Man killed for trying to collect old debt

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A JOBLESS man was stabbed dead when he tried to collect an old debt on Thursday night in Quezon City.

Ronaldo G. Mansilla, 36, of Apo corner Mayon streets, Barangay Maharlika, La Loma, Quezon City, went to the man who owed him, a certain "Camilo," and was stabbed five times, said SP01 Ramon Fernandez, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Witnesses told police that Mansilla confronted Camilo Thursday afternoon to collect the debt.

Camilo tried to defer payment of the debt and that led to a heated exchange, Fernandez said.

Later that night, Camilo sought the help of five men to kill Mansilla, witnesses said.

The victim was sitting outside a horse race betting station near his home when Camilo and five other men arrived around 8 p.m., Fernandez said.

Mansilla did not have a chance. The suspects surrounded him, drew out their knives, stabbed the helpless victim then fled, Fernandez said.

"The fatal blow was the wound just below his left chest," Fernandez told the INQUIRER. "It was near his heart."

Mansilla's wife, who heard the commotion, rushed out of their home but arrived too late to save her husband.

She took him to the Chinese General Hospital where he died at about 8:30 p.m., Fernandez said.

The victim's body was later taken to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory in Camp Crame for autopsy, Fernandez said.

Police are now getting the suspects' description from witnesses at the betting station.

OLYMPIC WORLD IS HABIT-FORMING

In today's world of net surfing, e-chat and text messaging, very little time is spent in physical activity. Always innovative, Olympic Village Group of Companies, again raises the mark in retail-entertainment. Out to promote sports and an active lifestyle as the key to a healthier mind and body, its newly opened flagship store, **Olympic World**, not only entertains the eyes and enriches the minds of the patrons but encourages them to stretch their muscles & test their skills in the process. Housed in the New Cinema & Entertainment Complex of Ayala Alabang Town Center, **Olympic World**, covers almost 1,000 sq.m. of retail space with cathedral ceiling. To call it cavernous is an understatement.

Breaking away from static and traditional retailing, its sign alone is found not above the doorway, but on the cove and ceiling of the lobby area. Imagery and graphics wrap the columns fronting the store's exterior. As one enters, the lifelike scrimmage of a basketball trio leads the way to the tempered-glass encased basketball half-court cum activity center. Merchandise line the walls from floor to ceiling categorized along general sports-ath-leisure lines. Sports lines like baskelball, running, soccer, cross training, fitness, cycling, skateboarding, scuba, swimming, golf, tennis, bowling and more. Lifestyle categories like outdoor, terrain, urban casual, billiards, among others. Floating futuristic modules in tempered glass and wire grids with perforated metal canopies is a visual merchandiser's dream. Its design and construction adds to the free-flowing movement within the store yet is built large enough to present suggested hook-ups of products and brands. But the spectacle lies at the imposing structure on its center wall. Here a 25-foot high sculptured mass of a blue-ice climbing wall glows from a distance. Much like the "kryptonite" structure of Superman, it challenges one to take up the dare and test one's skills. JCG&A, the architects, designers & planners, in collaboration with Power-Up, ensured that the grips and holds snaked to various levels of difficulty to challenge both beginners and competitors alike.

Adapting to the various tastes and needs of its patrons and the constant change in their lifestyles, **Olympic World** will be a work-in-progress. Changing trivia and world records will tease the shopper throughout the store, graphics and video displays will keep them entertained. Inter-active displays will be changed periodically and a host of other events will be held in conjunction with vendors and institutions.

Olympic World's mere expanse and innovative concept easily draws one into its space without knowing it. Determined to make one's visit to **Olympic World**, a uniquely pleasant shopping experience, it offers nothing but, authentic and trendy yet affordable merchandise from head to toe, for all ages, gender and income brackets. Aside from headwear, apparel, footwear and accessories, **Olympic World** carries a whole slew of equipment and athleisure accessories. It carries fashion brands such as Karl Kani, Willie Esco, Johnny Blaze, 33 Degrees, Champion Jogbra, Champion, Girl Star, Fubu, Dr. Martens, GBX, Diesel, Body Glove, Billabong, Nautica, to name a few. It carries the sports brand institutions like Nike, NBA, Adidas, Fila, Puma, Converse, And1, Speedo, among others. It houses Prince, Taylor Made, Dunlop, Alibor, Spalding, Rawlings, Magis, Fold, etc. Small wonder then that the patrons of the Olympic Village Group of Companies [Olympic Village, Olympic Gold, Hall of Fame and now, **Olympic World**] keep coming back to its stores and stay "young" despite the years.

Make it a point to stop by at **Olympic World** in the New Cinema & Entertainment Complex of Ayala Alabang Town Center and join the thousands that have gotten hooked on the habit.

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Get the latest NBA apparel and see how it feels to be like Iverson, Kobe or Carter on the basketball half-court inside the store (Yep, you read it right, there's a half-court inside Olympic World.). Gear up on the funkiest sports fashion of the season. Suit up in the coolest sportswear and then sweat it out on Mount Olympus - the only in-store rock climbing wall in the country today.

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OV-Park Square I, GF Ayala Center • OV-Robinsons Place Bacolod, 2L• OV-Robinsons Place Ermita, 2L • OV-Ayala Center Cebu, 2L
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Kalayaan	Hutu's Hut		Club Spoon
Makati	National Sports Grill	Malate	Common Ground
	Stars		Politixx
	Venezia		Gotham
	Wherelse		

Car stickering activity is on Friday at Hutu's Hut, 8465 Kalayaan Ave., Poblacion, Makati City and on Saturday at Total Service Station, Commerce Ave., Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang.

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AGWA

Daboy proposes unit for workers' welfare

ACTOR Rudy "Daboy" Fernandez yesterday proposed the creation of the Office of Workers' Affairs under the Office of the Mayor, to help protect workers' rights and prevent employers from abusing their workers.

Fernandez cited the Local Government Code, which mandates all local government units to have an office for labor affairs.

Fernandez is a former president of the Katipunan ng mga Artista sa Pelikulang Pilipino.

Supporters of Fernandez, who is running for mayor of Quezon City, have launched the Reform Quezon City movement, which seeks to turn the city into a modern and progressive area.

The popular actor and owner of Reflections Films has been preparing for his new career in government by taking seminars on management and government administration at the Ateneo de Manila University School of Government.

He said Quezon City is rich, well-planned and has a lot of potential to become the main business center in the country, but the city administration should be well managed and focused on the welfare of the people.

De los Angeles to aid ailing shoe industry

CELSO de los Angeles Jr., great grandson of the Marikina City shoe industry founder, is seeking the city's lone congressional district seat in the May elections as an independent candidate under the Samahang Maka-Bayan (SMB)-Citizens Grand Alliance (CGA) umbrella.

Popularly known as Boy Seseng, the businessman-turned-politician said that if elected, he would work for the passage of legislation converting Marikina into a special economic zone and aiding the ailing shoe industry.

His great grandfather, former Marikina Mayor Laureano "Kapitan Moy" Guevara, established the shoe industry in 1887 with the help of Tiburcio Eustaquio, Ambrosio Sta. Ines and Gervacio Carlos, among others, to provide livelihood opportunities to Marikina people.

De los Angeles, who is an Ateneo de Manila University alumnus and business administration graduate from the Asian Institute of Management, said that "given the right support, Filipino shoemakers can craft world-class shoes, bags and accessories as proved during the industry's heyday."

Before returning to the Philippines in 1997, the independent Marikina congressional bet worked in the United States almost 10 years where he honed his business acumen.

Eusebio wife not 'overconfident'

THE WIFE of incumbent Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio said she was not overconfident despite observations that she would be a runaway winner in the race for the post to be vacated by her husband.

Soledad Eusebio, who had been first lady in the city for the past nine years, would be going up against relatively unknown rivals in the Pasig mayoral race.

Those who have filed their certificates of candidacy for mayor are Jeff Pastor of the party Aksyon Demokratiko, and Pacita Osorio, Philip Manalo, Mario Bangasan and Elpidio Tuazon, all independent candidates.

The Eusebio camp claimed that only Pastor, who had run in previous elections, was known to them. Pastor was said to be a former employee in the office of city councilor and former basketball star Yoyong Martirez.

Earlier reported to be running for mayor were Mario Raymundo, a son of the former mayor; former Labor Secretary Bobbit Sanchez; former basketbal player Dodot Jaworski; and Rufino Javier. *Agnes E. Donato*

Aguilar: 'Obsolete gimmick'

(From page A28)

"Using the political dynasty issue is a political gimmick that lacks creativity," Aguilar said. "This only reveals our rival's desperate move to be elected and grab the leadership from the people-backed government."

Aguilar said that the Las Piñas voters have already set aside the issue of political dynasty when he and his brother-in-law, former speaker and now senatorial candidate Manny Villar, won by a landslide in the local elections of 1995 and 1998.

Aguilar said voters would judge him according to his achievements, not his family.

Aguilar also dismissed his opponents' claim that a brother-sister team in the city's leadership would be dangerous.

"The people of Las Piñas are intellectual voters and they will judge us according to our performance," Aguilar reiterated.

Aguilar also downplayed allegations that the voters' lists were padded, saying that a court and the Comelec has proved the claims to be wrong.

Aguilar's running mate is incumbent vice mayor Louie Bustamante of Lakas-NUCD.

Olivares residency questioned

IS Pablo Olivarez a resident of Parañaque City or not?

This question cropped up last week when Olivarez filed his certificate of candidacy for mayor of the city he once ruled. He will be opposing incumbent Mayor Joey P. Marquez.

Following news of his candidacy under the banner of LP-PDP-Laban, several groups, notably the local political parties, non-government as well as civic organizations and individual taxpayers questioned Olivarez's alleged non-residency in the city.

They claimed that Olivarez is a resident of Tagaytay City, not of Parañaque City, and is thus not qualified to run for any local elective post in Parañaque, as provided for in Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code.

Sources said Olivarez, with the knowledge of his lawyer, alleged as plaintiff in a P30-million damage suit he filed against Marquez in Tagaytay City that he was residing at the Olivarez Plaza, Silang Crossing, Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City.

The complaint, filed and signed by his lawyer Manuel R. Castro with the Regional Trial Court of Tagaytay City on Sept. 6, 1999, was docketed as Civil Case No. TG-1936.

Olivarez, in the complaint which was later junked by presiding Judge Alfonso S. Garcia, named Marquez as respondent for having named him (Olivarez) in newspaper stories as one of Parañaque City's biggest delinquent taxpayers.

Again, Olivarez, in the pre-trial order signed by presiding Judge Garcia on June 13, 2000, admitted that he was "a resident of the City of Tagaytay and not of Paranaque."

With that admission on June 13, 2000, sources said that Olivarez, in effect, had clearly abandoned his residency in Parañaque as of that date, thus making him ineligible to run in the city as stated in section 39 (a) of the Local Government Code.

Assuming that he returned and started residing again in Parañaque City on June 14, 2000, a day after the pre-trial order in Tagaytay City, Olivarez, the same sources said, would still be one month short of the required one-year residency.

Turn off those cellphones and earn people's respect

BY WALTER ANG

ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

THESE DAYS, no one apparently leaves home without his cellphone, that ubiquitous high-tech device that was said to have powered People Power 2. And while cellphones have now become a necessity, they could also become a public bane.

Here's why: When I went to see "Mansfield Park" at the Glorietta Cinema, a grandfather sat beside me about halfway through the movie. He whipped out his cellphone and promptly started composing a text message.

His cellphone had an annoyingly bright blue screen that was even more distracting than the regular green ones.

But I wasn't about to raise a ruckus just because this man was using his cellphone inside the movichouse. It's a given these days that most people do not have a clue as to what cellphone etiquette is. (I still believe those elementary school lessons on phone etiquette should be updated to include the use of cellphones and e-mail.)

In most instances, a politely worded request usually would do the trick. I would usually lean closer to the person and whisper, "Excuse me, could you please turn off your cellphone? It's very distracting."

But nothing happened this time. The old man, who was probably in his mid-60s, might not have heard me.

None of your business

About four minutes after I made the request, he still hadn't turned off his cellphone and was still punching away at his keypad. I leaned closer to him again and repeated my request, but a little louder this time.

What came next was one of the most surreal things that ever happened to me. This old frail grandfather stared at me and sternly said: "You don't look at this! It's none of your business! Stupid!"

I was blown away at how incredibly rude this person was! And so taken aback by what he said that all I could mutter in response was in incredulous "You're not even supposed to be using that inside the theater."

Then his wife, who was sitting beside him, replied, "*Wala kang pakialam* (It's none of your business)." Talk about adding insult to injury.

What is this *walang kamatayang* (undying) complaint of the older generation that the youth are rude and have no respect for everyone and everything? But some people, like this grandfather, apparently, never outgrow rudeness and lack of respect.

They should also change that adage that older people deserve respect. People, young and old, certainly deserve courtesy but not respect, which has to be earned.

Costly manners

This person could afford a cellphone, which probably meant he had enough extra money to toy around with that he even had a nifty blue back-lighted screen and an added design acetate to boot. So how come he couldn't afford some manners?

"Mansfield Park" is not your everyday blockbuster movie. One would assume that the only people who would be interested in watching it would have at least completed high school. Is this the kind of behavior one expects from educated people?

But money and education (or the lack of them) are not the issue here. Are people so smitten by the novelty of high-tech gadgets these days that basic human interaction skills are completely forgotten?

The age of the Jetsons is already here, but the Flintstones would put our behavior to shame.

I hope the cinema's management listens to this feedback. Management deserve kudos for bringing in arthouse films. But can they please do something about maintaining order? A short message at the beginning of the movie is clearly not enough. I'm sure they can easily have a check-in counter for communication devices.

The local production of "Miss Saigon" is the only theater production doing this so far. But when I went to see another play at the CCP and the guards found out I wasn't watching "Miss Saigon," they let me in without a second glance. Oh well, at least someone's started doing it.

Check-in counters will certainly not be 100 percent effective, but at least it will serve as a reminder to movie patrons.

Block those signals

Better yet, theater owners and movie companies and producers could invest in a device featured in the year-end issue of Time magazine. It's called C-guard and it's described as "a jammer device that cuts off communications between cellular handsets and cellular base-stations." Within its area of coverage, it renders cellphones useless.

If restaurants and theaters start using these devices and advertise that they do, I'll be sure to patronize these establishments. Hint, hint, hint to all owners and managers out there! Consumers have a voice, you know.

Yes, I do have a cellphone myself, lest some readers start complaining that I'm just an envious, bitter cellphone-coveting loser. But I turn off my cellphone when I watch movies and plays. I turn it off when I'm in a place of worship. I put it on mute mode when I'm eating with someone in a restaurant. These are not hard things to do!

By the way, the movie I watched was worth watching. It was funny and well paced, faltering a little only near the end. But it would probably be better to just rent a copy and watch it at home—in peace and with no grandfather texting away on his cellphone.

E-mail comments to waltzang@mail.com.

Kuh auction raises funds for 'Pinatubo'

BY LEAH SALTERIO

SINGER Kuh Ledesma held an auction Thursday night to kick off a fund-raising campaign for Pinatubo, which is joining the party-list race in the May elections.

"We were able to raise part of the funding we need for the entire duration of the national campaign," Ledesma said. "But we will hold other fund-raising activities in the coming days."

Ledesma, who would represent Pinatubo in Congress if the party makes it, sold art works donated by noted painters and art collectors.

The auction was held at Republic of Malate, a restaurant-bar that Ledesma also owns.

Artists such as Arturo Luz, Claude Tayag, Neal Oshima, Anita Magsaysay Ho, Denise Weldon, French painter Damien Anne, Danny Sola, Lee Aguinaldo and Lao Lianben donated their works.

The most expensive item in the auction was a 1967 charcoal nude by Vicente Manansala.

Ledesma's daughter Isabella, 16, gave a painting titled "Rebel," which was sold for P25,000.

Some religious items, however, were not sold. These included an 18th century oil painting of the Virgin Mary which was priced at P400,000, and a 19th century tapestry of Joseph and Jesus which was P25,000.

Apa Ongpin, who acted as auctioneer, and Ledesma are founding members of the newly formed Artista Para sa Pagbabago, a group of artists and performers clamoring for political change.

Pinatubo is doing four more fund-raising activities, including a concert on Ledesma's birthday on March 16 at Republic of Malate.

The Pinatubo platform proposes an alternative development strategy that will directly address the failures of past and current governments in sustainable nationbuilding.

Pinatubo was launched in May 1997 by a group of NGO leaders in Zambales and Olongapo.

Pinatubo's legislative agenda is to enforce the establishment of local development councils in barangays, towns and provinces to be trained in area planning.

It also aims to push for federalism and fiscal incentives for new market development.

The Pinatubo party participated in the 1998 party list elections and garnered 162,000 votes, 18,000 short to gain a seat in Congress.

"The name 'Pinatubo' signifies a push for development from the ground upward to complement the past and current government policies which have been able to effectively reach the majority of Filipinos who are still living below the poverty line," Ledesma explained.

Ledesma is married to Louie Quirino, a grandson of former President Elpidio Quirino.

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Must-see film on sex & rock 'n roll

'Almost Famous' Now Showing

In the tradition of Cameron Crowe's Oscar-nominated JERRY MAGUIRE, ALMOST FAMOUS is a coming-of-age tale that is intelligent, well-written and infused with humor in unlikely places.

Inspired by the real-life experiences of the Academy Award nominee writer/director, ALMOST FAMOUS is the story of an unabashed rock 'n roll music fan tasked to write for Rolling Stone magazine in the '70s at age 15. As he joins the band Stillwater on tour, he befriends the band members and their groupies, and grows up, losing his virginity along the way.

ALMOST FAMOUS won a Golden Globe BEST PICTURE Award (Musical/Comedy), and 4 Academy Award nominations for Original Screenplay, Editing, and Supporting Actress for Kate Hudson and Frances McDormand. The movie also stars Billy Crudup, Jason Lee, Patrick Fugit, Anna Paquin and Fairuza Balk.

Embraced by critics, ALMOST FAMOUS is described as "absolutely fabulous," "honest and brilliant," "bighearted, and bittersweet," and "filled with splendid performances."

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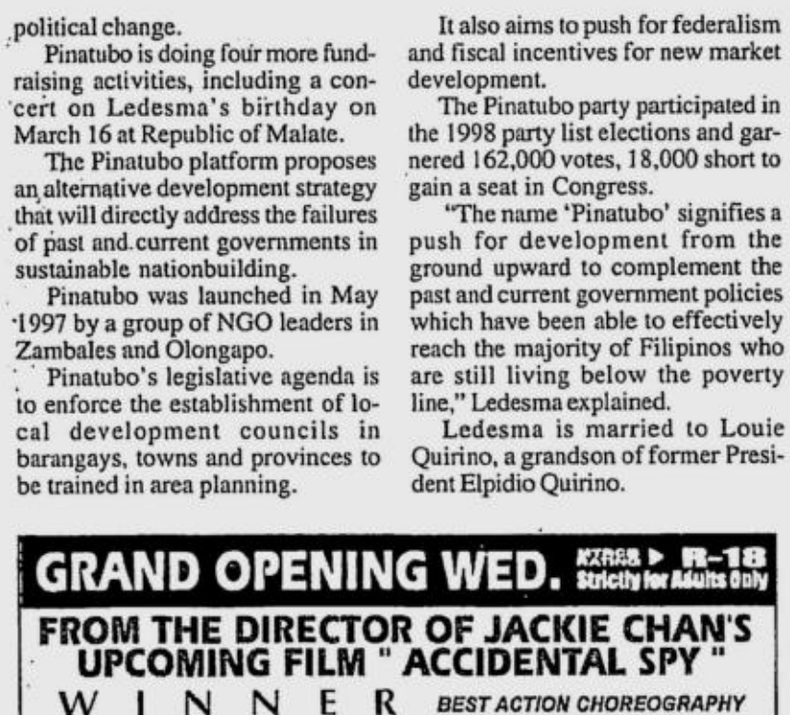

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ALMOST FAMOUS - R 18 12:30, 3:05, 5:40, 8:15, 10:50	MISS CONGENIALITY - G 11:20, 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00, 11:15	HANNIBAL - R 18 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:20, 11:00
DRACULA 2000 - R 18 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:70, 10:00	PAY IT FORWARD - P 13 10:40, 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40, 11:20	MISS CONGENIALITY - G 10:20, 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15

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Angry students storm UPLB building

BY ROMULO O. PONTE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Some 200 enraged students on Tuesday barricaded the administration building of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) to protest the UPLB chancellor's violent way of dealing with dormitory residents.

The student dormitory residents earlier sought a dialogue concerning the administration's plan to evict them.

Cristina Rubio of the UPLB Perspective, the official UPLB students publication, told the INQUIRER on Thursday that Chancellor Wilfredo P. David had been impatient with the demonstrating students, hurling invectives at them and pushing them away.

David, on board his car, reportedly even forced himself through the barricade, causing bruises and other minor injuries to five of them. Among the five students hurt in the incident, according to Miles Pardalis of the UPLB Perspective, were John Evangelista and Jun Songkit. The INQUIRER's attempts to reach the chancellor and the administration staff for comments were not successful.

Office of the Student Affairs director Candida B. Adalla earlier disclosed plans of the administration to close the Makiling Residence Hall (Mareha) due to its very low occupancy.

She said that this semester, only 51 dormers are residing at Mareha. She blamed the dormitory's dilapidated facilities for the low occupancy.

Rubio said Mareha would be converted to a UP Diliman-inspired Kalayaan-type dormitory, which is exclusive to freshmen.

As a result, non-freshman dormers will be evicted from the dorm.

Dorm sources disclosed, however, that the alternative housing to be offered to Mareha dormers would cost them P750 a month, double the rate the dormers are now paying.

Dormers and supporters from other student groups on March 6 insisted on a dialogue with the chancellor during their protest rally.

David and UP president Francisco Nemenzo were then attending the 92nd UPLB Foundation Day Convocation at the Makiling Ballroom.

After the convocation, Nemenzo tried to speak to the demonstrators. He said the UPLB has autonomy in such issues, and that the students should talk to the chancellor instead.

It was 4:35 p.m. when David finally started leaving the hall, with no apparent intention of talking to the dormers.

Witnesses said that as he passed by, some of the student protesters attempted to block him. David, however, responded with a curse, pushed the students on the chest, then sped off in his car that cut through the barricade of dormers and hurt five of them.

University Student Council chair Symore Donacao denounced David's behavior, saying: "David's action against the students is inhuman. Erap did not even harm us at Edsa, but he (David) has the gall to run over the students with his car."

The League of Filipino Students also condemned David's behavior, which it called "a grave misconduct for a person of his stature."

Jeffry Dy, spokesperson of Samahan ng Kabataan Para sa Bayan (Sakbayan), an alliance of UPLB student groups, added that their barricade at the Administration building, which they have now renamed Admin Dorm, would continue until a dialogue is scheduled.

Child abuse suspect stabbed by stepson

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

ENRAGED WITH his stepmother's abuse of his siblings, a young man repeatedly stabbed the woman in front of their house in Caloocan City.

Luminad Abordo of Salaysay Street in Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan is undergoing treatment at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center after her stepson Arnel, 20, stabbed her about 8 a.m. on Thursday, said case investigator SPO1 Ibarra Salonga.

Earlier, the young Abordo had filed charges of child abuse against his stepmother. But his father reportedly begged him to withdraw the case.

Abordo suffered deep stab wounds in the chest and left arm. Each thrust of the fan knife was said to have been so furious that the weapon was left imbedded in her arm.

The Caloocan City Prosecutor's Office recommended a P200,000 bail for the temporary release of the suspect, who is facing frustrated murder charges.

Abordo was having a conversation with neighbors in front of her house when her stepson arrived, pulled her hair, and dragged her on the pavement, investigation showed.

As she grimaced in pain, the young man pulled a fan knife and repeatedly stabbed her in front of her stunned neighbors, police said.

Accompanied by his aunt Nilda Villeza, the young Abordado later surrendered to police.

Villeza told police her nephew could have stabbed his stepmother for repeatedly abusing his siblings even for the slightest mistake.

She said the young Abordo was not aware of his siblings' plight at first since he was always out selling bathroom items all over the city.

'Jackie Chan' attacks his own father

A MENTALLY disturbed and drunken man who thought he was action star Jackie Chan attacked his own father in Pasay City on Thursday.

Police arrested Leoncio Beroniela Jr., 35, married and a resident of San Lorenzo Street, Maricaban, Pasay City, at about 8 p.m. after his own father Leoncio Sr., 64, filed a complaint against him.

The senior Beroniela sustained bruises in different parts of the body after his son attacked him with a wooden *chaku*.

The old man said he chanced upon his drunken son who was busy imitating his idol Jackie Chan and playing with the weapon. When he tried to berate his son, the younger man attacked him with the *chaku*.

The father said his son had long admired Jackie Chan and tried to imitate his martial arts moves in his movies.

Alerted by the cries of Leoncio Sr., the other members of their household called barangay guards to stop the rampaging son.

Leoncio Jr. was eventually overpowered and brought to the Pasay police station while his father was brought to the nearest clinic for treatment. ***Alcuin Papa***

Ex-cop nabbed for rob

A FORMER police official who is suspected to be the leader of a robbery syndicate was arrested by Makati police on Thursday.

Arrested was former Senior Insp. Isagani Reyno, 31, married, a resident of Dallas corner Mora Streets, Barangay Bangkal, Makati City, according to Senior Insp. Florante Jose, chief of the Follow-up Section of the Makati Police.

Reyno was arrested at about 6 p.m. Thursday in his house after one of his gang members pointed out his location to police.

One of Reyno's alleged victims, Roderick Palileo, also positively identified him as the one who held him up sometime last year.

Reyno had been wanted by police for the last two years and had been identified as the brains of the robbery gang that had been preying on people around Metro Manila.

Police are looking for the other members of Reyno's gang.

Reyno is detained at the Makati City jail. ***Alcuin Papa***

Post-graduate course

THE PHILIPPINE Society for Cosmetic Surgery will hold its annual post-graduate course for continuing medical education on March 11 at De Los Santos Medical Center on E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City.

It will be a one-day rhinoplasty instructional course consisting of comprehensive lectures in the morning and live surgical demonstrations in the afternoon.

The objective is to transfer skills to surgeons who are interested in the practice of cosmetic surgery both as a science and as an art. Faculty members are renowned cosmetic surgeons who are recognized and accredited by the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery, the European Academy and Japan Society of Aesthetic Surgery.

Among the topics are augmentation and alarplasty; bulbous tip correction; the injected nose; cleft lip; nasal bone fractures; and errors and pitfalls in rhinoplasty.

Interested physicians may contact Dr. Corazon Jose, president of the Philippine Society for Cosmetic Surgery, 819-2966 and 723-0041 loc. 156; Dr. Mariano Agcaoili Jr., chair of the organizing committee, 724-3675, 724-3115; Dr. Charrie Ballecer, vice chair, 723-3056 and 8401222.

Gobencion, 70

MA. LINA Reyes-Gobencion died on Tuesday after a lingering illness at the Philippine Heart Center. She was 70.

Gobencion, a former manager of the Security Bank foreign department, is survived by her children Alberto and Beth, Beatriz, Conrado and Nerissa, Daniel and Minerva and Eric.

Her body lies in state at the Funeraria Paz Annex on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City. Internment will be announced later.

DSWD travel unit

EFFECTIVE March 1, 2001, the DSWD-Travel Clearance Unit will be in its temporary office at the National Training Center for Women's Welfare and Development, Department of Social Welfare and Development, at 1680 F. Tirona Benitez St. (former Kansas), Malate, Manila, with telephone numbers 523-9117 and 524-2595.

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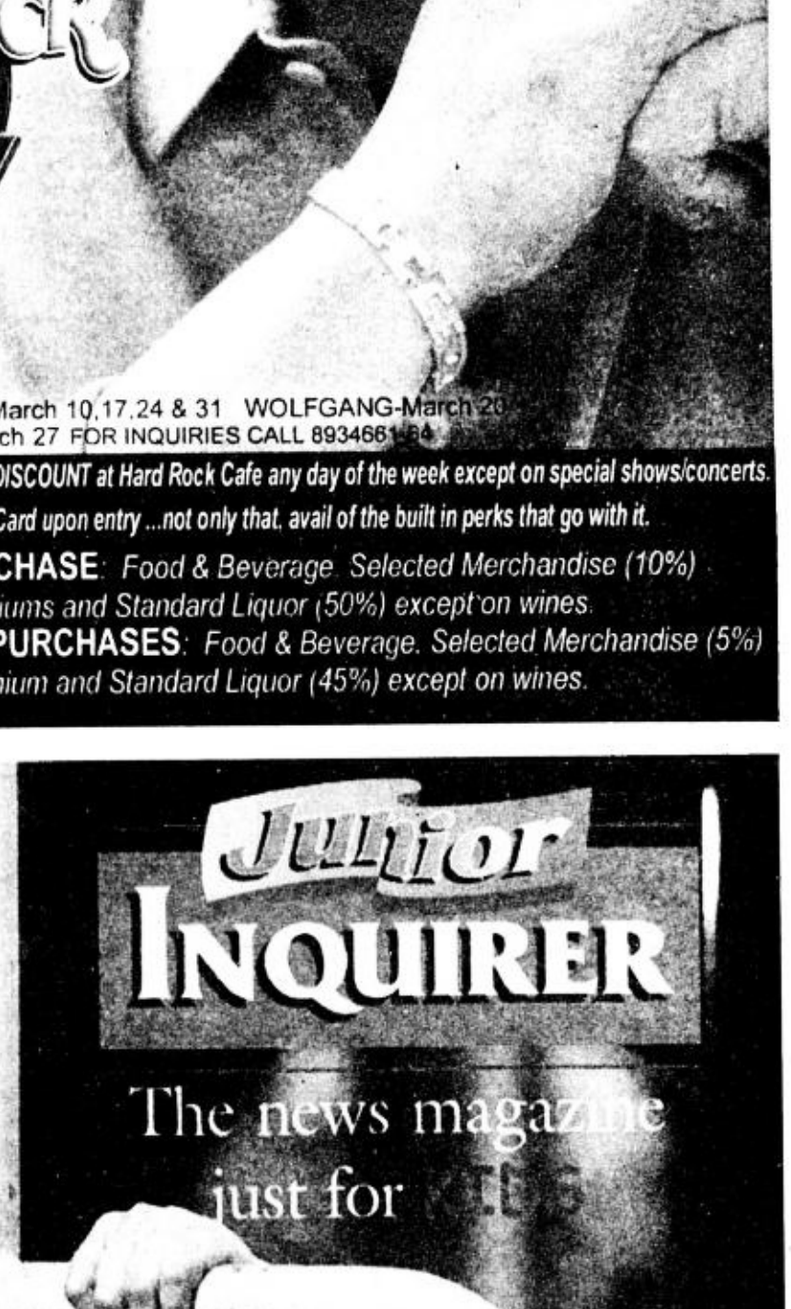

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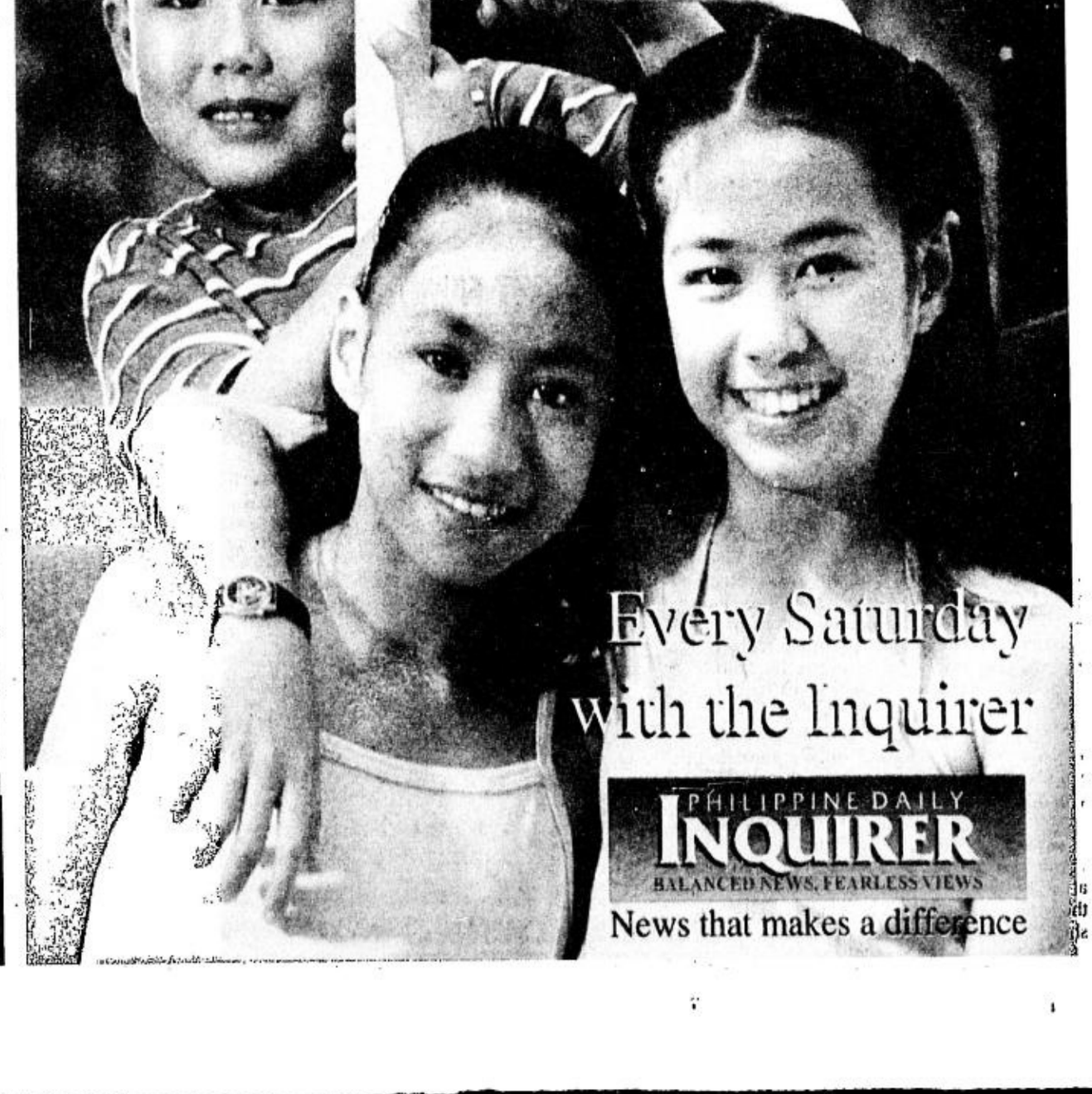


All-Metro Saturdays
STARTING today and every Saturday, Metro will fill all the pages of this section. Entertainment will take its usual place Sunday to Friday.

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Angry students storm UPLB building A27

Youth tries to make sense of voting

BY IRA CRUZ

ARTICLE V. SUFFRAGE
Section 1. Suffrage may be exercised by all citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law, who are at least 18 years of age, and who shall have resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the place wherein they propose to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the election. No literacy, property, or other substantive requirements shall be imposed on the exercise of suffrage.

WHAT in the world was I thinking getting all eager and excited to vote? What made me even think of braving the summer heat, the pungent smells, the harassment from last-minute campaign attempts, the rampant vote-buying, and facing the underpaid teachers who are just too worn out to even consider being nice, just so I could cast my vote? What could have entered my mind?

Born in the latter part of the year, I didn't quite make the Commission on Elections cut-off for those who would be allowed to vote, much less register for the 1998 presidential election. Being the most emotional and vocal about my stand and feelings toward politics in our *barkada*, I felt frustrated about being left behind by some of my contemporaries who trooped to the precincts to exercise their constitutional right of suffrage.

I felt that no matter how much I spoke about my insights and no matter how critical I became, the best I could do was contribute to noise pollution. The thought kept running in my head: Their voices were heard, and subsequently counted.

However, in the days that followed and during the start of the Estrada presidency, my feelings about voting began shifting. Not that I would opt for a different system, certainly not what the otherwise informed extremists down south are advocating, but somehow my faith in the Philippine electorate has dwindled. Does my vote make sense at all?

Popularity and entertainment

According to Social Weather Stations (SWS) data, the ABC classes make up 8 percent of the electorate, the D class 71 percent and the E class 21 percent. The D and E clusters constitute what is considered the *masa,* who was responsible for placing Joseph Estrada in Malacañang.

Exit polls suggest that E provided 47.7 percent of the votes, D 37.9 percent and ABC 23.9 percent. These, to my perception, are the people who lack access or are simply apathetic to issues that are crucial to choosing the people whose names they write in their ballots.

And, judging from the types of campaign that political wannabes launch, these people are just after the popularity and the entertainment that these aspirants can provide rather than what they should really be looking for.

Quite a number of incumbent officials may admit the fact that a crucial part of their election into office was due to public recognition. Former President Estrada, then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Senators Robert Jaworski Sr., Ramon Revilla and Vicente Sotto III, among many others, benefited from it.

One of my readings even led me to the revelation, by one of the former vice president's campaign facilitators, that they intended to stress Ms Macapagal's resemblance to Nora Aunor. A sad excuse for campaigning for a very important public office.

Jolting realization

The promise of alleviating the plight of the poor has never left any politician's agenda. Little did many people realize that the only difference that Estrada offered was his stint as an actor, which was the closest he has ever been to being poor. What ever spawned the idea that he was part of the masses? Why is the Ejercito matriarch referred to as Doña Mary?

It is quite a jolt to realize that a significant number of people do not vote according to ideal standards and criteria. Age (as a primary requirement for voting) and length of stay in a locality (at least one year in the Philippines and six months in the place where the voter intends to register) alone cannot guarantee a responsible vote.

In 1987, two out of three of those who ratified the present Constitution had not even come across the draft of the charter. In the late 1980s, when the country was to decide in a plebiscite the fate of the US military bases in the Philippines, 30 percent of the country (mostly from the Visayas and Mindanao) were not even aware that the bases ever existed.

Discouraged

Most politicians may prefer this breed of voters, but it has discouraged me from voting. It doesn't help either to see issues of vote-rigging blowing in the faces of public officials, and the lack of morality in the government. As Solita Monsod wrote in her newspaper column, morality in the government jumps out of the nearest window.

Who would have thought that the likes of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago would end up in alliance with Estrada and Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta? The only thing certain, as they say, is uncertainty.

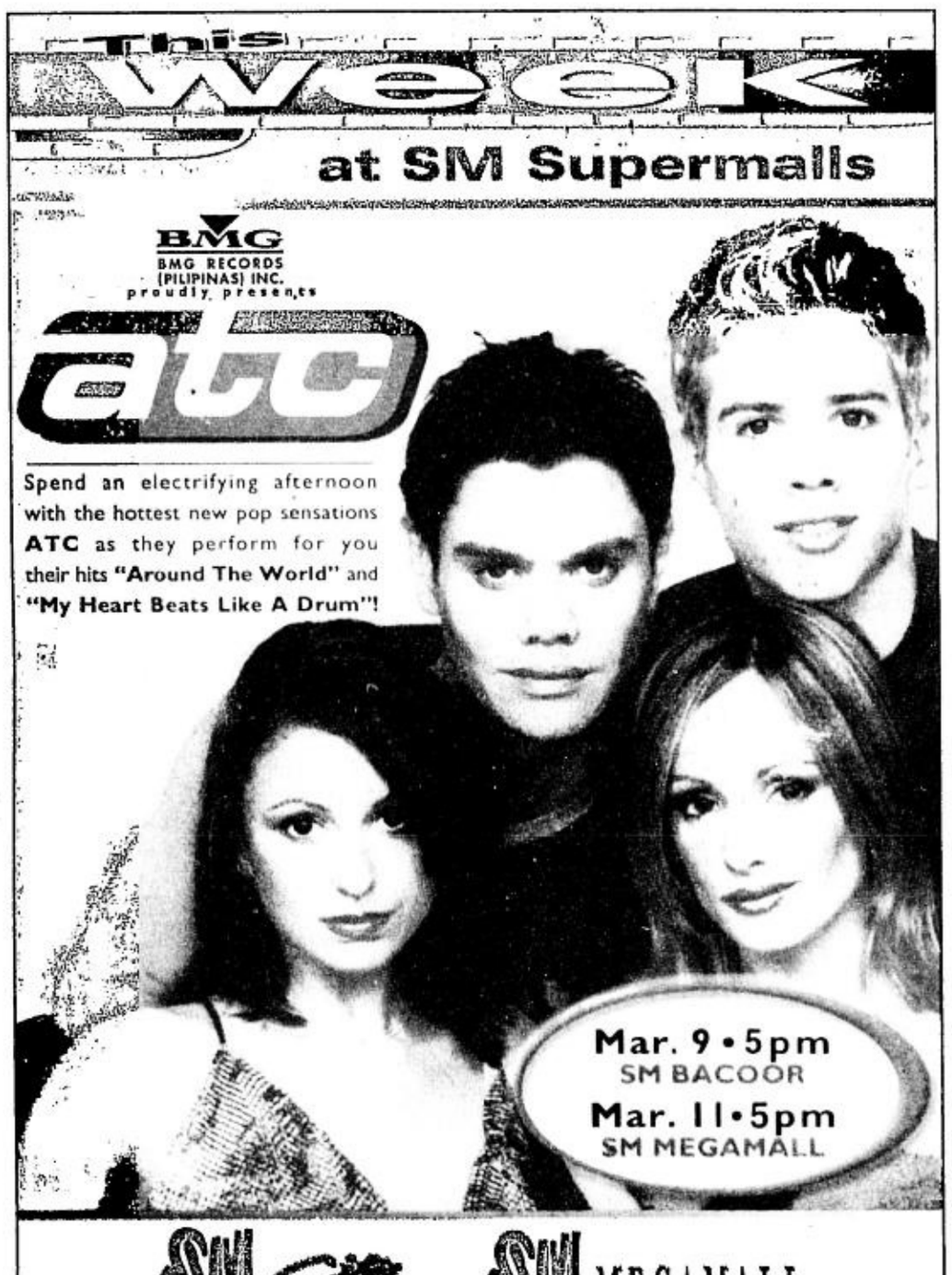
Before writing down my thoughts, I ran my ideas through a couple of people. Those who did not agree with me usually offered this argument: At least they did their part.

Until a drastic improvement in the electorate takes place, my stand on voting may further drift toward the point of no return. It is very crucial that those who control the fate of the nation realize that voting is seen as a factor that determines the future.

(The author is 20, a sophomore in BS Applied Economics at the De La Salle University Manila.)

ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Until a drastic improvement in the electorate takes place, my stand on voting may further drift toward the point of no return.



KBP stays neutral on quick count

THE KAPISANAN ng mga Broadkaster ng Pilipinas yesterday said it is not inclined to participate in any quick count activities during the May elections.

This was stated in a letter from KBP president Ruperto Nicdao to the Office of the Chair of the National Press Club. The KBP, as a self-regulatory body for radio and television, pledged to remain neutral in light of the recent events concerning the Commission on Elections.

The KBP, however, leaves to the discretion of its member networks whether or not to tie up with other organizations in election-monitoring activities such as quick counts and exit polls.

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Locsin is Binay's bet

JEJOMAR BINAY, PDP-Laban national president and the party's mayoral bet in Makati, yesterday said that journalist-lawyer Teddy Boy Locsin is the only congressional candidate he and his partymates are supporting in the city's 1st district.

Binay issued the statement to quell rumors he is also supporting Armida Siguion-Reyna, Locsin's opponent.

"Teddy Boy (Locsin) is our man in the 1st district," Binay said. "He is a full-fledged PDP-Laban member whom we have tapped to represent the party as congressional candidate. He is fully qualified and we stand solidly and squarely behind him. Besides, it would be unthinkable for us to support two candidates for the same position."

He believed the rumors started when Siguion-Reyna openly tried to solicit Binay's support.

She earlier said that she agreed with the programs and policies of the Binay administration in Makati.

The rumors were fueled by her own recent statement that Binay is her chosen candidate for city mayor.

But Binay said he politely turned down her request, citing his own personal commitment and that of the party, including Senate president and PDP-Laban chair Aquilino Pimentel, to Locsin.

Tamayo vows to fight political dynasties

FORMER Las Piñas vice mayor Tony Tamayo appealed to residents of the city to support his crusade against political dynasties and election fraud.

Tamayo will contest the candidacy of Cynthia Villar, wife of former Speaker Manny Villar and sister of incumbent Las Piñas mayor Vergel Aguilar.

"A Cynthia Villar victory here will set a dangerous precedent since this will put the brother and sister team of Cynthia and Nene Aguilar in complete control of Las Piñas, effectively removing all checks and balance in the city," Tamayo said.

Tamayo had exposed the padded voters list in Las Piñas two years ago. The Commission on Elections in an en banc resolution in 1998 ruled that the city's voters list was indeed bloated. The poll body ordered the filling of cases against the perpetrators of the fraud.

Tamayo also decried the fact that some barangay officials, taking the lead from their political *padrinos,* have been "systematically harassing and intimidating" the petitioners who spearheaded the exclusion cases in their desire to be in the "good graces of their masters."

"I appeal to all Las Piñas city residents to support my crusade against political dynasties and electoral fraud since our children and our children's children will be the direct beneficiaries of what I am fighting for today," he added.

TAMAYO

Tamayo grants 300 scholarships yearly to poor but deserving students, provides 40 free hospital beds to poor patients and jobs to many Las Piñas residents.

Aguilar: 'Obsolete gimmick'

LAS PIÑAS Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar blasted his critics when they raised the issue of political dynasty against him and his sister Cynthia Villar.

Aguilar said his critics were engaged in "an obsolete and hopeless attempt to oppose the Las Piñeros' desire for quality and performance-oriented leadership."

Aguilar is seeking a third term as city mayor while Villar is eyeing a congressional seat.

AGUILAR/A26

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

RP ratings upgrade seen in 3-6 months

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

FRENCH investment bank BNP Paribas said it believed the Philippines was still faced with a risk of a credit ratings downgrade if the new government could not deliver its promises of containing the budget deficit and legislating important reforms.

Warren Mar, head of BNP's fixed income group research, told reporters yesterday that foreign credit rating agencies were prepared to upgrade their outlook for the Philippines from negative to stable in the next three to six months.

The country's rating, he said, has a moderate to low risk of falling although risks of a downgrade "is receding quickly."

BNP Paribas, the fourth largest institution in Europe, flew in experts yesterday to meet with key economic officials and get updates on plans of the new administration.

The peaceful transition from a president accused of graft and corruption to a new leader who has vowed to pursue reforms and run an honest and transparent government had improved prospects for the Philippines, BNP Paribas said.

"But foreign investors and creditors would rather see action than words and only after these reforms are in place would we see investors moving away from the sidelines, the wait-and-see attitude," Mar said.

Foreign credit rating agencies Standard & Poor's, Moody's Investor Services, and IBCA Fitch have downgraded their outlook for the Philippines to negative from stable late last year to early this year.

Standard & Poor's was scheduled to send a mission in early February but had postponed the trip in order to await further developments in the Macapagal administration.

"The Supreme Court ruling that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency is legitimate removes in our opinion one of the major headline risks to the country's credit ratings," said the visiting official from BNP Paribas.

Andrew Freris, BNP's chief economist for Asia Pacific, said growth prospects of the Philippine economy has improved. "The economy can grow at over 6 percent for several years. We expect falling inflation and interest rates and stable peso," he said.

BNP's experts said they believed the government should specifically legislate the power reform bill and rein in the deficit. The ousted Estrada administration had failed on both counts.

The Macapagal administration said the budget gap could widen to P225 billion this year while the power reform bill has not been declared a priority item for legislation.

Last year, the Estrada administration incurred a deficit of P136.1 billion against its target of P62.5 billion. As a result, the country failed to pass a three-year program with the International Monetary Fund.

Mar cautioned that credit rating agencies take time in upgrading sovereign outlook to ascertain that risks to investors have indeed eased, if not totally eliminated.

Standard & Poor's had downgraded its outlook for the Philippines in mid-October last year, a week after the eruption of a "Juetengate" scandal involving the country's highest official.

The following week, Moody's Investor Service also revised its outlook to negative. Fitch IBCA had also placed the Philippines under its negative outlook watch last Jan. 18, two days before the new president was sworn in.

All three rating agencies affirmed their existing ratings of below investment grade for local and foreign, and long- and short-term borrowings last October.

Standard & Poor's rating for the Philippines remains at BB+, Moody's Investor Service also stayed at Ba1, and Fitch at BB+.

The outlooks downgrade in October last year helped increased the country's borrowing rates and only pushed wider the spread of sovereign bonds trading in the global, secondary market.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

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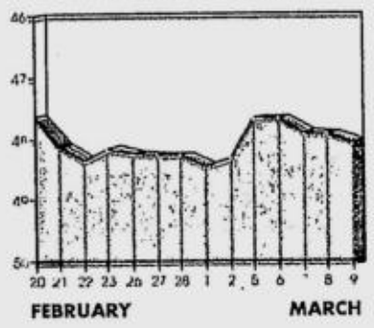


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱48.065=$1

As of 5 p.m., March 9, 2001

¥119.76 =$1

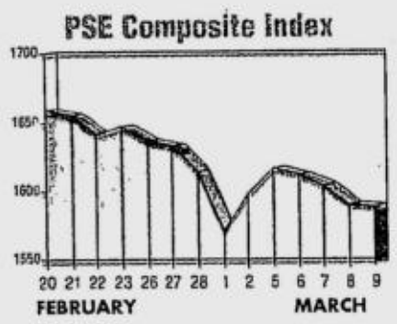
The US dollar was trading at 119.76 as of 5 p.m., March 9, 2001

GOLD:$268.20/268.70

per ounce Hong Kong, March 9, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares end mixed

SHARES closed mixed yesterday, with the main index inching lower, unable to sustain its early gains due to lack of inflows to boost market liquidity, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 1.18 points, or 0.07 percent, at 1,588.39, adding to a 0.9-percent loss Thursday. The index has shed 1.7 percent since Monday.

Gainers led decliners 36 to 28, while 46 issues were unchanged.

The decision of the central bank to cut its policy rates by 0.50 percentage point Thursday provided bargain hunters reason to accumulate select issues early in the session, traders said. However, the absence of fresh inflows prevented local shares from sustaining gains.

"No foreign funds are coming in," said BPI Securities assistant vice president Spencer Yap. "I guess the market will remain lackluster until the May 14 mid-term elections."

Yap said investors hope the new set of lawmakers who will be elected in the May polls will be able to work well with the new administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo to ensure the passage of critical reforms that will promote economic growth. *AP*

Piltel sees turnaround

PILIPINO Telephone Corp. is expecting a turnaround in cash flow by the end of the year as it proceeds with the implementation of its debt restructuring and continues accepting subscribers for its Talk 'N Text service.

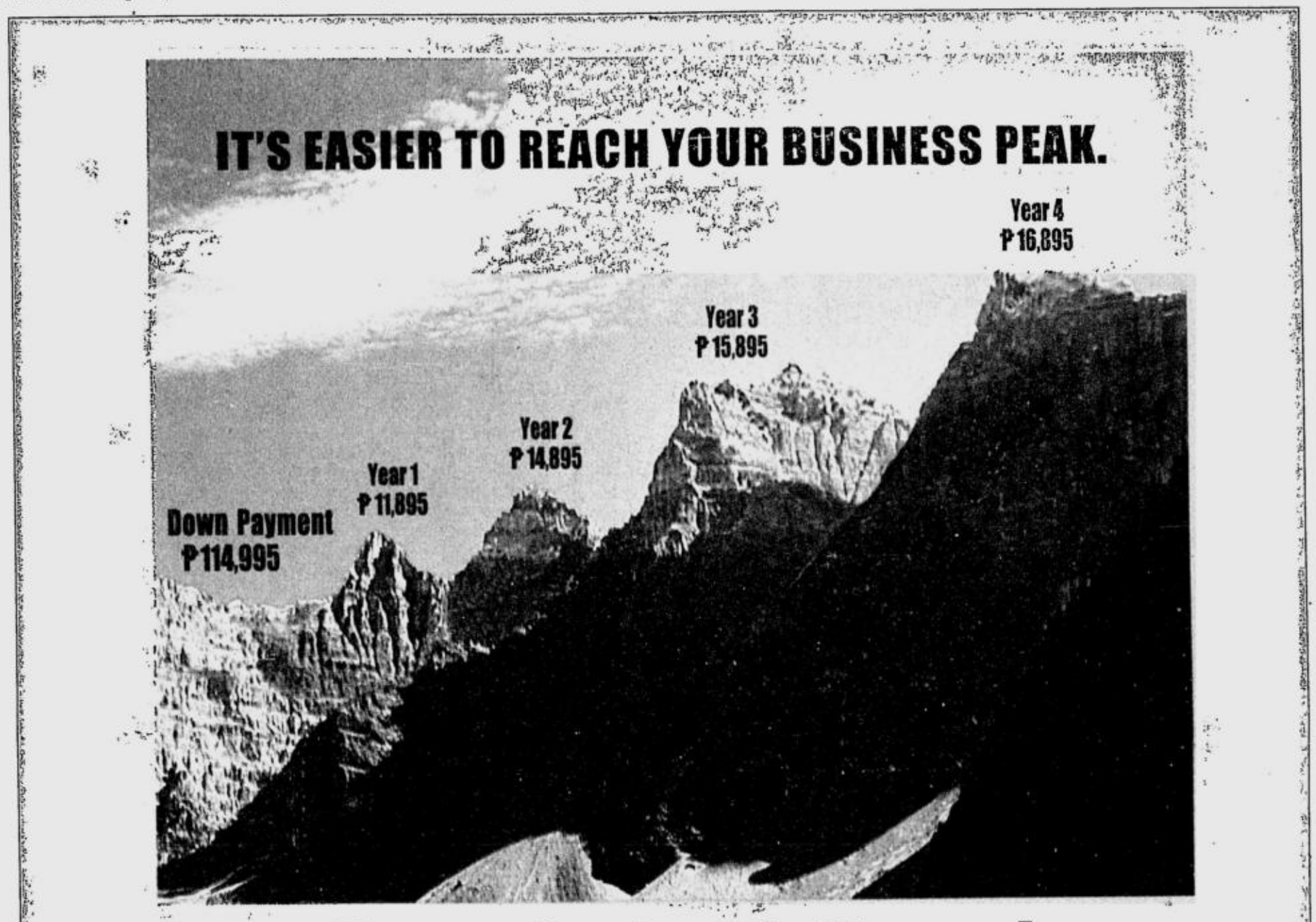
Manuel V. Pangilinan, president of Piltel's parent company Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., told reporters that Piltel continued to have a subscriber take-up of 40,000 a month.

This would ensure strong revenue generation for Piltel, which is in the process of finalizing the restructuring of some P40 billion in debts.

"We hope to (implement that debt restructuring) by the middle of this year (and) cash flow breakeven by the end of the year," Pangilinan said.

Piltel recorded a net loss of P5.2 billion in 2000, an increase of 33.33-percent from P3.9 billion in 1999, as a result of higher selling and promotional expenses for its Talk 'N Text service.

Talk 'N Text is Piltel's digital mobile phone service using the global system for mobile communications standard. The service, which started only early last year, used sister firm Smart Communications Inc.'s GSM facilities since Piltel itself employed a different digital standard called code division multiple access.



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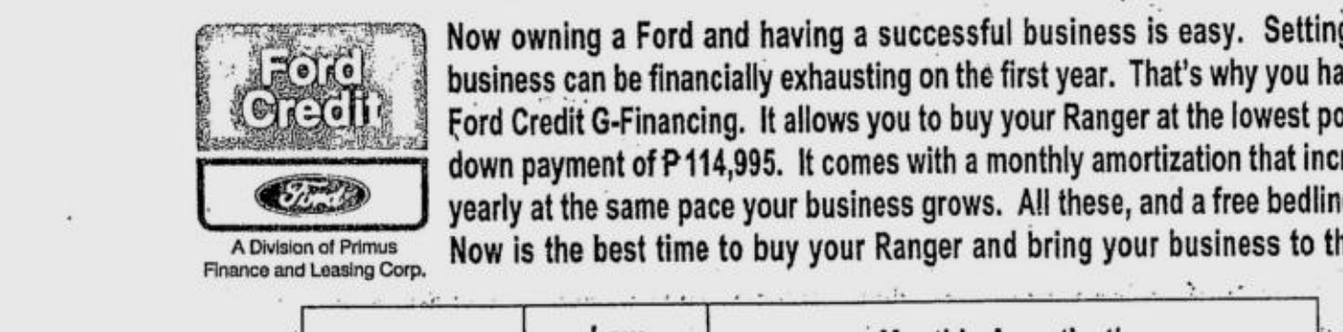

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Heard mentality

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

JOHN Gokongwei Jr. is bidding for Equitable PCI Bank. This makes a lot of business sense to the Makati crowd. The same bank which he sold earlier at a handsome premium, he now gets back at an ugly discount. The bank has problems.

But how come, if you ask the Makati types, those necktied pencil pushers in big business, it's always the first comment you hear? The taipan, a Chinese term for tycoon, simply cannot pass up the chance to make money! You can detect a tinge of scorn.

I'd like to think it's not because Big John is a Chinese-Filipino. All right, I know, even top officials in this cute administration of Gloriaetta look down on businessmen of Chinese origin. The Palace spokesman, Renato Corona, already showed us the way.

As a leader by example, Corona loves to insult Chinese-Filipinos by saying they come to the Palace, because they all just want photos with Gloriaetta and First Gentleman Miguel "Just Call Me Mike" Arroyo.

I don't know, but do you think that Corona thinks that he is merely carrying out some long forgotten government policy, that piss?

* * *

WHEN she was still just the Vice President, anyway, before she even thought of joining the plot to oust the man named Band . . . Wrist Band . . . Gloriaetta herself had Chinese-Filipinos for close friends.

One time, when her father, former President Diosdado Macapagal, was still alive, Gloriaetta hosted a dinner for bigshots. The likes of Fernando Zobel de Ayala came, although she invited only two Chinese-Filipinos. One of them was George Go.

That's the former chair of Equitable PCI Bank. Really, among the Chinese-Filipinos, he is known to be closer to Gloriaetta than he was to Wrist Band, if ever he was. He did not have a direct link with Wrist Band. The connection had layers.

Ironically, George Go had to resign at the height of the political problems of Wrist Band.

Apparently, he allowed Wrist Band to use the bank for laundering dirty money. And George Go wasn't even Wrist Band's friend. He was Gloriaetta's friend.

* * *

IN the secretive Gokongwei group itself, they were split in the beginning on whether or not to bid for George Go's troubled bank. Big John's only son and heir apparent, Lance, even tried to dissuade the group. They could just be buying headaches.

Big John prevailed, of course, and it was not only because the acquisition of the bank made good business sense. All right, shrewd business sense! If I may vouch for the man, I say he is buying the bank, believing he is doing something good for the country.

Who else among the locals has both the desire and, most importantly, the "hard cash" to buy the bank? *Sige nga*! In the news yesterday, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura already sounded desperate on the bad debts in the banking system.

They are nearing P250 billion! To relieve the system from such a burden, Tito Paeng wants a scheme for unloading the bad debts. Thus, the banks get a fresh start, they lend to business again, and before you know it, they are incurring bad debts again.

* * *

EVEN in banking, anyway, they are saying that most banks fell prey to the so-called herd mentality. They all heard about the real estate boom! Every other Tom, Dick and Harry named Archit was erecting a skyscraper in every other street corner.

Where do you think the money came from? From our parents? Try again! The banks thought that they found everlasting joy in real estate. Why not? The administration of Kuya Eddie found true happiness by selling land at inflated prices.

In a big way, the government inspired the banks to think "real estate." Today, no wonder, the banking system is grappling with all those huge unpaid loans for—make a guess—what else, real estate ventures.

Are those projects suddenly attractive today at the same inflated prices started by the government? I'm afraid not. Really, Tito Paeng's scheme can only work if the banks sell the assets at a bargain. Look, even banks themselves are getting dirt cheap.

* * *

STOCKS of the Philippine National Bank, for instance, are doing at P40 per in the market. Not too long ago, one of those Chinese-Filipinos who are now the best friends of Corona, none other than Lucio Tan, bought a lot of PNB shares at P160 per.

Now, through a phenomenon called "heard mentality," Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo learned that Lucio Tan is the most despicable, abominable, and contemptible man ever to roam the entire universe, according to civil society, i.e. Jose Almonte.

Justifiably, Romulo now wants Lucio Tan to lose a lot of money. Romulo simply forces Lucio Tan to sell his group's "majority" holdings in PNB together with the the government's "minority." This makes good business sense. OK, shrewd!

The government's shares only fetch the market price of P40 per. That is, if there are buyers. The government gets a little premium for its minority shares, simply by forcing the sale of the majority shares which it does not own. Fair enough?

* * *

IF the Gokongwei group gets Equitable PCI Bank, the bank can very well be on the way to better times. Typically, I heard, Big John wants a buy-in, instead of a buy-out. In business, "in" or "out" can make a lot of difference, much like in sex. Oops!

Well, a buy-in means that the money stays with the bank as fresh capital. A buy-out means that its existing stockholders will get the cash and run away. I don't think that it's the style of Big John. You said it, he's got a lot of business sense.

Still, there's one good thought which I heard from one of the best friends of Corona, another Chinese-Filipino, also a taipan no less. Big John, he says, needs an institution like Equitable PCI, not so much for the money but for the prestige.

And there you can detect a tinge of ache. Chinese-Filipinos may have all the money, but without a good name, they also feel they are nothing. You know instantly that even Corona's best friends, like the Makati crowd, do not relish his insult.

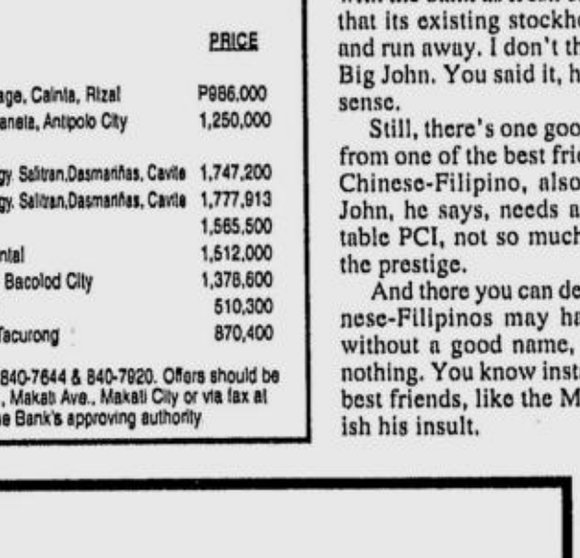
Equitable PCI BANK

EQUITABLE PCIBANK is offering for sale on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis, the following properties, with their indicative price:

TCT NO./AREA (in sqms.)/DESCRIPTIONS	LOCATION	PRICE
I. METRO MANILA		
1) 651568/200 m2/ res. w/ impvts.	L7 B27, Jade St., Cainta Greenpark Village, Cainta, Rizal	P986,000
2) 405392/500 m2/ res. vacant lot	Sunrise Drive, Beverly Hills Subd., Bgy. Aranela, Antipolo City	1,250,000
II. PROVINCIAL		
1) T-934984/512 m2/ res. vacant lot	Carnation St., The Orchard Subd., Phase II, Bgy. Salitran,Dasmariñas, Cavite	1,747,200
T-934985/521 m2/ res. vacant lot	Carnation St., The Orchard Subd., Phase II, Bgy. Salitran,Dasmariñas, Cavite	1,777,913
2) T-123031/623 m2/ res. w/ impvts.	Bgy. Antipolo, Lipa City	1,565,500
3) T-206569 & T-206576/1,680 m2/ res. vacant lot	Poblacion I, Segay City, Negros Occidental	1,512,000
4) T-258601/621 m2/ res. w/ unfinished bldg.	Galaxy St., Henrietta Village, Singcang, Bacolod City	1,378,600
5) T-42134-35/405 m2/ res. vacant lot	New Isabela, Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat	510,300
6) T-43051/1,088 m2/ res. vacant lot	Unnamed Road, Valdez Subd., City of Tacurong	870,400

For inquiries, please call Acquired Assets Division at Tel. Nos. 817-8909, 817-2622, 894-1910, 840-7644 & 840-7920. Offers should be sent to Ms. Lita O. Valencia/VP-Acquired Assets Div. 11th Flr., Equitable PCI Bank Bldg. Tower 1, Makati Ave., Makati City or via fax at 817-7491 not later than March 23,2001. All offers to purchase shall be subject to approval by the Bank's approving authority

SUCCESS!



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DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of **Fortune Cement Corp.** accepted the resignation of directors Henry Sy Jr., Antonio Henson and Ramon Ang. Renato Sunico, Froilan de Dios and John Reinier Dizon were appointed to replace them. Also, Jose Sio, Juan Miguel Montinola, Peter Hoddinott, Gilbert Garcia Jr. and Sunico were named as members of its executive committee.

* * *

ACTIVE Alliance Inc. said it has no knowledge of any information that caused the increase of its share prices on March 7.

* * *

EBECOM Holdings Corp.'s election of directors will no longer be included in its special meeting of stockholders on March 30. Instead, it will be conducted at the annual meeting scheduled in June 2001 as per its by-laws.

* * *

BPI Investment Management Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 8. The time and venue will be announced later. The record date is Feb. 28.

Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, March 9, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.6	6.9	6.6	6.9	16,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	110	120	110	120	1,250
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	69.5	69.5	33,100
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	140
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	53.5	54	53.5	53.5	39,500
Global Business Bank Inc.	72	72	66	71	700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	229	230	227	228	43,890
Prudential Bank	500	500	500	500	1,610
Philippine National Bank	47	47.5	46	47.5	261,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28	29.5	28	29.5	600
Security Bank Corp.	23.25	23.25	22.75	22.75	50,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	26	26	25,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.58	46,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1255	1260	1255	1260	2,230
Sun Life Financial Serv.	960	970	960	970	1,490
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	46.5	46.5	45	45.5	62,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.61	0.61	370,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	700	700	700	700	1,120
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	4,000
Piltel	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	1,270,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	775	790	775	785	77,510
Ivantage Corp.	1	1	1	1	22,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.07	0.0725	0.07	0.0725	106,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	52.5	53	52.5	53	4,800
Manila Electric Co. B	62.5	63	62.5	62.5	591,200
Petron Corp.	1.82	1.88	1.82	1.88	1,910,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.1	718,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.24	1,065,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.51	0.55	0.51	0.55	110,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2	2	2	5,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	10	10	10	10	6,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	110,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	130,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12	12	11.75	11.75	155,400
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	36.5	36.5	36.5	36.5	6,700
Pancake House Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	13,000
RFM Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	89,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48.5	47.5	48	46,800
San Miguel Corp. B	56.5	56.5	56	56.5	149,500
Universal Robina Corp.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	18,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.59	40,000
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	347,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	36,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	1,100
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	12,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2	2	2	2	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	200,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12	12.75	12	12.75	1,200
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	80,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3	3.05	3	3.05	3,286,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.44	0.44	150,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	607,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	40,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	570,000
Ionics Inc.	13.25	13.25	12.75	12.75	577,800
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	100,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings B	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	80,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.9	1.98	1.9	1.98	40,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.88	0.9	790,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.56	1,240,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	460,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	10,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	25,000
Music Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	3	272,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.72	0.8	0.72	0.8	80,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	50,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	240,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	430,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	1,730,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.64	530,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	46.5	46.5	44.5	45	408,100
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	1,000,000
DMCI Holdings Inc- Pref.	495	495	495	495	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.75	3.9	3.75	3.9	648,000
Jollibee Warrants	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	12,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	17,000,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	5,502,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.32	0.32	400,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.4	2,720,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	19,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.65	3,728,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	40,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.115	0.12	0.115	0.12	20,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	1,000
SM Development Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	500,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	4,050,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.1	0.115	0.1	0.11	1,800,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	11,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	650,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	15,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046	12,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	1,600,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	25,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.005	18,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	524,110	34,004,475.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	174,481,130	503,617,555.00
PRO	18,790,000	74,437,120.00
Mining	43,650,000	375,500.00
OIL	44,620,000	263,100.00
GRAND TOTALS :	282,065,240	612,697,750.00

AVERAGES			
Banks & Fin Svc	514.02	DOWN	1.93
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,147.70	DOWN	1.89
PRO	615.70	DOWN	0.85
Mining	1,325.37	UP	11.15
OIL	1.89	UNCH	0.00
All Shares Index	768.37	UP	0.90
Composite	1,588.39	DOWN	1.18

NO. OF ADVANCES: 36; NO. OF DECLINES: 28; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 46; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 110; NO. OF TRADES: 1,700

CURRENCIES

March 9, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.072271	1.000000	48.0020
Japan	Yen	0.008960	0.008356	0.4011
United Kingdom	Pound	1.576024	1.469800	70.5533
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.137474	0.128208	6.1542
Switzerland	Franc	0.649271	0.605510	29.0657
Canada	Dollar	0.693667	0.646914	31.0532
Singapore	Dollar	0.610633	0.569476	27.3360
Australia	Dollar	0.547385	0.510491	24.5046
Bahrain	Dinar	2.844372	2.652661	127.3330
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.285908	0.266638	12.7992
Brunei	Dollar	0.608036	0.567054	27.2197
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000101	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.024650	0.022989	1.1035
UAE	Dirham	0.291949	0.272272	13.0696
Korea	Won	0.000846	0.000789	0.0379
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.932600	44.7667
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.476831	22.8888
France	Franc	0.152450	0.142174	6.8246
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.423195	20.3142
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.067775	3.2533
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.023119	1.1098
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000482	0.0231
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.156852	7.5292
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004652	0.2233
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005605	0.2691
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.023119	1.1098
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.184158	56.8420

Gov't urged to stay out of corporate rows

COJUANGCO

EDUARDO "Danding" Cojuangco, chair of leading food and drinks group San Miguel Corp., said yesterday he hoped the government would stick to its promise to keep out of corporate battles.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration this week renewed its bid to reclaim control over the San Miguel group and the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) in the latest twist to a dispute over share ownership that has simmered since 1986.

San Miguel, the country's biggest brewer, is controlled by Cojuangco, a close friend of former President Joseph Estrada who was toppled amid a popular revolt in January and replaced by Macapagal. Cojuangco also claims 17.8 percent of UCPB.

"It would be unfair of me to accuse them right away of this being a vendetta," Cojuangco said in an interview with local radio station dzMM.

"I would want to believe the President when she said 'I will not meddle, I will assure businessmen of an even playing field.' I will rather cling to that until proven wrong," he said.

Court decision

The Supreme Court on Tuesday temporarily returned to the government the voting rights over the sequestered shares of UCPB, which was seen as an indication of how the Macapagal administration would also move to wrest control of SMC.

Ms Macapagal, in a previous meeting with businessmen, promised that the government would keep out of corporate battles and would stop brokering business deals. "Corporate battles are for corporations to do," Ms Macapagal said.

In 1986, the government sequestered 95 percent of UCPB shares and 47 percent of SMC, which it alleged were bought by the Cojuangco group using public funds. The government claimed that coconut levy funds, made up of contributions from coconut farmers for the development of the industry, were used to make the purchases.

'Present evidence'

Cojuangco regained control of SMC after Estrada assumed the presidency in 1997 when the Supreme Court granted him voting rights over his contested 20-percent stake.

The court ruled—first in 1997 and again in 1999—that the government must present prima facie evidence that the shares were ill-gotten.

SMC "A" shares was unchanged at P48 yesterday, while SMC "B" shares, which are open to foreigners, were also unchanged at P56.50.

"I would like to be able to give them the benefit of the doubt and . . . this is one way they probably want to find out some things about SMC, about the bank, about my cases, and so maybe this is a learning process for them as well," said Cojuangco.

The planned stockholders' meeting of UCPB on March 6, supposedly the first in 14 years after the government sequestration, was stopped when the Supreme Court issued a last-minute status quo order temporarily returning voting rights over 95 percent of the UCPB to the government.

Promise of support

The court ordered the involved parties to comment on the petition by the government on or before March 12, with an oral hearing set on March 14.

The businessman said he hoped SMC would not suffer a similar fate when its stockholders meet on May 3.

Despite the legal battles he was facing, Cojuangco said the political party he heads, the Nationalist People's Coalition, will support the Macapagal administration.

"The party's spokesman has said we were willing and are going to support the administration of President (Macapagal) Arroyo especially on policies that we felt were beneficial to our country," Cojuangco said. But he added: ". . . those programs that they felt will not be too beneficial to our people, we would oppose." *Reuters*

FedEx seen extending lease contract with Subic

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

MEMPHIS-BASED Federal Express Corp., the world's biggest air express delivery service provider, has sent feelers to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority that it was interested in extending its contract at the former American naval base by another six years to 2013.

SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo said FedEx was so pleased with the operations of its AsiaOne hub at Subic Bay that it wanted to look into a longer lease contract with the government.

FedEx signed a six-year extension of its lease contract with the SBMA in 1998 even before its existing pact expires this year. The company will buy eight more aircraft to beef up its fleet of 12 for its first contract extension in Subic.

Aside from expanding its Subic operations, FedEx officials also told President Macapagal-Arroyo of their plans to tap Cebu International Airport for their operations.

Payumo said FedEx was also buoyed by the ongoing refurbishment of the Subic runway which, upon completion, would be upgraded to Category 2 status (an industry standard on airport safety). "Subic airport and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport are the only airports with Category 2 ranking in the country," Payumo said.

Payumo said SBMA and FedEx were spending P80 million each to extend the runway to 2.8 kilometers, modernize the central and touchdown lighting, and upgrade the tower.

FedEx's AsiaOne serves as the operating base of the courier's operations in the region especially for its next business day deliveries in key cities in Asia, Europe and the US.

Last year, the company reconfigured its express transportation network to establish tighter links between FedEx EuroOne hub in Paris, France, and the FedEx AsiaOne hub in Subic Bay.

Although the US remains its biggest market in sheer volume, its Asia-Pacific division has the fastest growth rate even during the Asian financial crisis. FedEx's success in the region can be traced to its decision to locate in Subic while its rivals picked Metro Manila.

FedEx chose the Philippines because of its bilateral relations with the US which gave FedEx freer access to fly its planes; Subic Bay's strategic location in Asia; the minimal investment requirement because of Subic's existing facilities left by the American forces, and the country's vast pool of skilled, English-speaking workforce.

GLOBAL CITY'S UNIVERSITY HUB

The new campus of Manila Japanese School (MJS) is set to open next month at the University Park of the Bonifacio Global City. MJS is leasing a 4-hectare property from the state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) on a 25- plus 25-year lease term. MJS will be the first school locator to operate at the University Park of the Bonifacio Global City to be followed by the British School of Manila, which is set to open in September. Other future school locators at the University Park are the International School Manila, the Victory Leadership Institute, MGC Christian Academy, Summit School and Casa Montessori Internationale.

DOF to review Ilijan power deal

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has decided to subject to another review the contract on the $710-million Ilijan power project in Batangas.

The National Power Corp. and the Korean Power Corp. had been waiting for the DOF's go-ahead signal to make the crucial initial drawdown from the $475 million worth of senior loans earmarked for the project.

The gas-fired power plant is under a 25-year build-operate-transfer contract with Napocor.

The Japan Bank for International Cooperation, which provides 50 percent of the loan, requires the initial loan disbursement before its fiscal year ends this month. Other lenders are the Export-Import Bank of the United States and the Korean Export-Import Bank.

Kepco president Oh In-taek said in an interview that the DOF approval was all they have been waiting for to save the project from a critical cash shortfall as payments to the contractors fall due.

The DOF document was ready for the finance secretary's signature in January until Edsa People Power II. The new DOF leadership, however, decided to review the contract before giving its approval.

Oh said the first tranche of the loan was about $300 million.

For the rest of the funding, project consortium Kepco-Ilijan Corp. secured in November some $275 million in equity and shareholder advances.

Other investors in the project are Mitsubishi Electric with a 21-percent stake; Southern Energy Philippines, 20 percent and Kyushu Electric, 8 percent.

The Ilijan power plant is expected to draw natural gas from the $2-billion Camago-Malampaya natural gas field in Palawan, which Shell Exploration BV is developing.

According to Kepco's original schedule, the power plant should begin commercial operations by January next year.

The Ilijan project is part of the government's $5-billion gas-to-power project. It is a significant component of the government's strategy to use local, competitive and environment-friendly sources of energy.

The power plant is expected to help the country lessen its dependence on imported crude oil.

The power plant is being constructed by a consortium that groups United Engineers International Inc., Raytheon-Ebasco Overseas Ltd. And Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.

ADB urged to modify terms of $175-M agriculture loan

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture will renegotiate the terms of its $175-million loan with the Asian Development Bank.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said in an interview that his department would ask the ADB to review the terms and provisions of the loan package extended under the bank's Grains Sector Development Program (GSDP).

GSDP is an integrated loan package aimed at improving the country's agricultural policies, infrastructure and support services, and institutional capacity at the national and local level. It is, however, hinged on various policy and institutional reforms, including the restructuring and privatization of the National Food Authority (NFA).

One of the loan conditions was the passage of a bill that seeks to liberalize the pricing and importation of rice and corn. Montemayor, however, wants this provision modified since the liberalization was deemed disadvantageous to farmers.

He said he would ask the ADB to allow the government to maintain the support pricing system for palay. NFA's support price is presently at P9.50 per kilo.

The agriculture chief said he would also move for the deferment of a bill that will immediately remove the tariff restrictions on rice by year 2004, another provision of the loan.

"We want the plan deferred at least until the next Congress. This measure was certified as urgent by the previous administration to speed up the removal of the tariff barriers on agricultural products. The tariffs are expected to fall by year 2004, so why hurry now?" said Montemayor.

On the issue of NFA's privatization, Montemayor said he was opposed to this plan. "If we leave rice procurement, including importation, to the private sector, what would prevent them from becoming a cartel?" Montemayor said in an interview.

He noted that if the government would completely disengage itself from this undertaking, "we will also be removing whatever protection there is for farmers and consumers."

"This might open the farmers and consumers to price manipulation by unscrupulous traders," he said.

The ADB loan package also seeks to improve the administration of the country's buffer stock.

ADB documents showed that the GSDP sought to abolish the NFA's monopoly on the importation of rice by opening up importation to the private sector.

Globe, HSBC sign ₱1.08-B facility

GLOBE Telecom Inc. recently signed a P1.085-billion notes facility consisting of P835 million in fixed rate corporate notes and P250 million in floating rate corporate notes. The facility, which raised financing in three-, five- and 10-year maturities, is Globe's maiden transaction in the Philippine debt capital market. The proceeds of the facility will be used for the expansion of Globe's existing facilities and related working capital purposes.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. (HSBC) acted as the sole bookrunner and arranger for Globe's notes facility.

Globe's notes facility was met with strong demand from insurance companies, banks and retirement funds. The Dutch auction was used for the pricing and distribution of the notes, therefore allowing Globe to achieve tighter credit spreads on most tranches. The resulting credit spreads of the three-, five- and 10-year FRCNs were 0.358 percent, 0.314 percent and 0.579 percent, respectively, over the relevant treasury benchmarks. The three- and five-year FRCNs, on the other hand, achieved margins of 1.5 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively. The transaction was made available only to qualified buyers.

Delfin C. Gonzalez Jr., Globe's chief financial officer, said: "While Globe's notes issue was launched amidst difficult market conditions, investors have shown strong support for Globe's first domestic issue. This notes issue has allowed us to expand both our investor base and the markets we can look to for our future financing needs."

Rafael Jose Consing Jr., head of HSBC Philippines capital markets department, said: "HSBC is pleased to have arranged this very important transaction for Globe."

POLICY CONFUSION

Japan sends mixed signals as economy sags

TOKYO—Policy confusion gripped Japan on Friday as Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa apologized for warning of a looming fiscal collapse and Economics Minister Taro Aso floated the idea of yet more public spending to save the economy.

To compound the muddle, Trade Minister Takeo Hiranuma contradicted both Aso and Bank of Japan Governor Masaru Hayami on whether Japan should encourage a weaker yen to boost its economy and ease deflationary pressures.

The sense of disarray came as the clock ticked down to the resignation of unpopular Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori. Newspapers said he could state his intention to resign as early as Friday.

The background to the disorder is an economy that is hurting badly due to slower growth in the United States and Asia, Japan's key export markets, and crumbling business confidence at home.

Speaking to reporters, Aso said the government would downgrade its official assessment of the economy this month on the heels of a raft of dire data, including an 11.8-percent drop in machinery orders for January reported on Thursday.

Aso said he believed the economy still needed the kick of public spending and recalled how growth had evaporated when the government opted for belt-tightening in 1997 before a recovery was firmly established.

While stressing that he was not advocating another burst of deficit-spending right away, Aso said, "If the economy worsens more than we had expected, I think we need fiscal spending."

Aso's remarks are significant because there has been hardly any talk in recent weeks of a supplementary budget this year.

Since 1992, Japan has enacted 10 extra budgets totaling more than $1 trillion to try to lift the world's second-largest economy out of its deepest downturn since World War II.

In the process, Japan's public debt has doubled to around 130 percent of gross domestic product and is now the largest in the industrial world.

The ocean of red ink triggered an outburst on Thursday by Miyazawa, who told parliament that Japan was on the verge of fiscal collapse and that fiscal reforms could not be delayed.

Yet 24 hours later, Miyazawa apologized for his bluntness.

"I thought I was saying what I had always said, but the wording was inappropriate. I apologize," he said at a news conference. *Reuters*

THE US dollar jumps against the yen beyond 120. After Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Japan's finances were in critical condition, the dollar bought 120.02 yen Thursday afternoon, up 0.78 yen from late Wednesday. AP

Japan to cut economic outlook, says eco chief

TOKYO—Japanese Economics Minister Taro Aso said yesterday the government would downgrade its assessment of the economy and more fiscal spending might be needed should the economy deteriorate more than expected.

Although corporate survey data on Thursday showed corporate profits and capital spending continued to improve, weak machinery orders data indicated there was little room for optimism for the outlook for future capital spending, Aso told a news conference.

"Of course we will," Aso told reporters when asked whether the government planned to downgrade its view on the world's No. 2 economy in its monthly economic report due late next week.

It was clear the economy deteriorated in March from February, he said.

Aso said he believed that the economy, hit by increasing signs of a slowdown, still needed support from fiscal spending measures. He noted that the economy worsened sharply in 1997, when the government decided to carry out fiscal reforms to cut mounting public debt before a full recovery was in sight.

While stressing that he did not mean the government should come up with new fiscal spending steps now, Aso said, "If the economy worsens more than we had expected, I think we will need fiscal spending."

Data on Thursday showed core private machinery orders, closely watched as a leading indicator of capital investment some six months hence, fell 11.8 percent in January from December.

Following Japan's first trade deficit in four years in January, the machinery orders data provided further evidence that slowing growth in the United States and Asia was hitting Japan's export-dependent manufacturers.

The bad news overshadowed stronger-than-expected data that showed firms raised spending on capital equipment by 7.1 percent between October and December from the same period a year earlier. *Reuters*

Controversial bank rescue plan outlined

TOKYO—Japan's ruling coalition parties were set yesterday to unveil an emergency economic package that included a controversial proposal for the government to take over embattled banks' shareholdings.

The takeover of the stocks would be designed to support the banks, whose unrealized gains on their holdings are being destroyed by a slump on the stock market, to the end of the fiscal year on March 31.

The government was cautious about the proposal.

"I know that the draft includes the setting up of a body to purchase bank cross-shareholdings, but it is difficult to implement," State Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy Taro Aso told AFP financial news subsidiary AFX-Asia.

"If the government sets up such a body, it will have to take responsibility for it, and if private companies set it up, it will also be hard to operate the body," Aso said. *AFP*

Fed officials see pickup in 2001

OLYMPIA FIELDS, Illinois—The US economy was not contracting and would likely stage a rebound from its current weakness later in 2001, two Federal Reserve officials said Thursday, less than two weeks before the central bank's next interest rate meeting.

New York Fed president William McDonough and Chicago Fed chief Michael Moskow, in separate speeches on separate continents, said nothing to derail analyst expectations for a hefty half-percentage point cut in short-term interest rates at the central bank's next meeting on March 20.

But both officials downplayed recession fears.

McDonough said the US economy, while still expanding, would likely be weak in the first quarter but would not contract. Recessions are commonly defined as two straight quarters of contractions in growth.

"I think the question is what is the first quarter likely to be, which is fairly likely to be quite weak, probably slightly positive," McDonough told reporters in London after delivering a speech to the British Bankers Association.

Moskow, for his part, said the US economy was not in a recession but said the greatest risk facing the world's largest economy remained weakness, not inflation.

"I don't personally think we're in a recession at this time," Moskow told reporters after speaking to the Prairie State Foundation in Olympia Fields, Illinois. But in a comment that echoed other Fed officials, he added, "I think the balance of risks are still toward weaker economic growth."

Moskow and McDonough both are voting members on the Fed's policymaking Federal Open Market Committee this year. Responding to mounting evidence of a rapid slowing in the economy, the FOMC cut rates by a half-percentage twice in January, bringing short-term interest rates to 5.5 percent.

In his speech, Moskow said inflation would likely remain contained, suggesting that Fed officials were not feeling a significant enough threat of higher prices to hinder them from cutting interest rates further later this month.

"We recognize there are downside risks (for the economy)," he said. "But we're cautiously optimistic that inflation will remain in check, while economic growth will return to higher levels by the end of the year."

Moskow said there were advantages to changing interest rates at the Fed's regularly scheduled policy-making meetings, reserving inter-meeting moves for special circumstances. *Reuters*

Thai gov't to buy $4B in bad loans

BANGKOK—The Thai government would buy bad loans with a book value of more than 200 billion baht ($4.65 billion) from private banks under its new Central Asset Management Corp., an official said yesterday.

The government would spend about 160 billion baht on taking over the non-performing loans at net book value, which takes into account loss provisions already made by the banks. The banks would receive bonds in return, a finance ministry source told AFX-Asia, an AFP-owned financial newswire.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was expected to officially unveil the blueprint for the controversial Central Asset Management Corp. later in the day.

The source said the CAMC would bear 70 percent of any future losses from managing the bad debts while the banks would take 30 percent.

Thailand's banking system has at least 1.2 trillion baht in bad debts, with 900 billion on the books of government-controlled banks and the remainder in private banks.

Four years after the Asian financial crisis, the financial sector is still struggling under the weight of non-performing loans, which are holding back new lending and hampering hopes of economic recovery.

Financial analysts have been cool to the CAMC proposal, which is a key plan in Thaksin's campaign.

They fear the government's plan to take over responsibility for NPLs will reinforce a culture of non-payment of debts in Thailand as it grapples to regain credibility with financial markets. *AFP*

IMF seeks joint survey on N. Korea

SEOUL—International Monetary Fund president Horst Koehler has proposed a joint survey with South Korea and the World Bank to help rebuild the North's tattered economy.

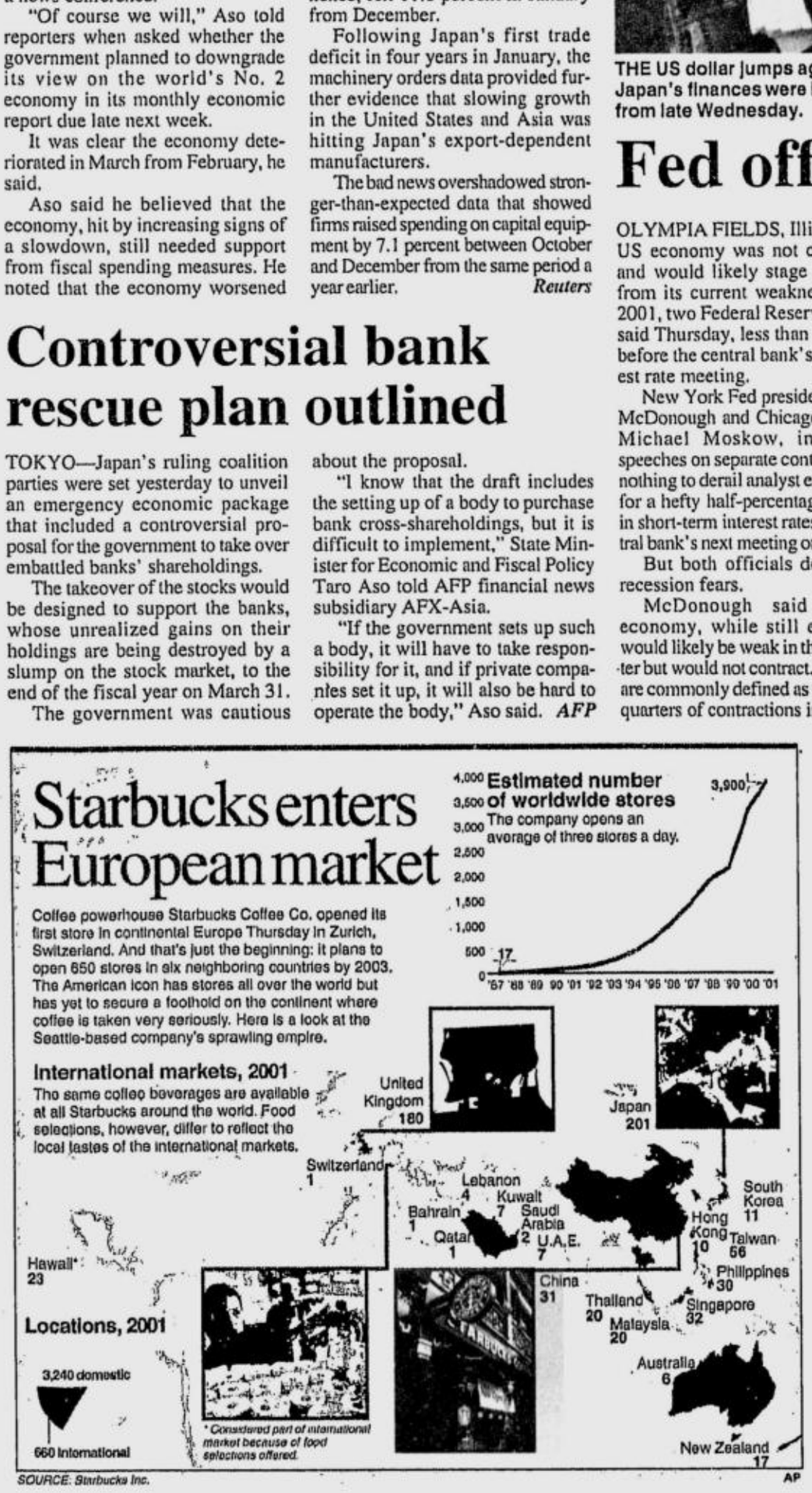
Koehler made the proposal when he met South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung and World Bank president James Wolfensohn at a breakfast in Washington Thursday.

"President Kim favorably responded to his suggestion," South Korean presidential spokesman Park Joon-Young was quoted as telling journalists.

Kim Dae-Jung is on a visit to Washington. He met President George W. Bush for their first summit since the US administration took office.

Koehler told Kim that the two Koreas and the two international agencies needed to open workshops for that purpose following a joint survey on the North's economic situations.

Citing his own experience on the process of the German unification, Koehler, a German, said a special analysis model is needed to rebuild the North's devastated economy. *AFP*



Regus reports 110% income surge

REGUS, a leading instant office provider, capped 2000 with full-year revenues of $608.83 million, up 110 percent over 1999.

This developed as Regus added 93 new centers to its portfolio and raised the number of its host countries to 48, including the Philippines.

A report obtained by Regus Philippines from its headquarters in the United Kingdom showed the group's 93 new centers adding 23,934 workstations to its global capacity.

These bring Regus' total number of business centers to 335 and workstations to 64,070 as of Dec. 31, 2000.

Regus said it hit its revenue target of more than $600 million for 2000, which also saw the company reducing overhead expenses from 30 to 21 percent of revenues.

Regus attributed its increased overhead efficiency to the strategy of focusing resources on deepening its presence in existing markets rather than broadening its country network.

In the Philippines, the company plans to expand its operations to meet rising demand for its instant offices and high-tech facilities.

Located at the top two floors of The Enterprise Center along Ayala Avenue in Makati, the Regus business center houses multinational firms, providing them with fully furnished offices and meeting rooms on hourly, daily or monthly terms, in addition to virtual offices, videoconferencing facilities and other hightech telecommunication equipment, support staff and various other services.

These conveniences have been attracting companies to hold office in any of Regus' business centers, which are strategically located in key cities worldwide.

For the fourth quarter alone, Regus' global revenue rose 103 percent to $188.24 million from $92.53 million.

This remarkable performance provided Regus with an end-2000 net cash of $245.5 million and net assets of $293.06 million.

StanChart reports 37% revenue hike

STANDARD Chartered Bank plc said it almost doubled its profit for 2000, with its full-year pretax profit rising to 949 million pounds from 507 million pounds in 1999, helped by a 37-percent decline in bad debt provision to 310 million pounds.

Underlying revenues were 11.4 percent ahead and underlying costs rose 96 percent, just within the bank's pledge to keep cost increases below 10 percent.

Earnings per share were ahead 41 percent at 46.9 pence and dividend had been raised 10 percent to 25.135 pence.

Commenting on these results, Standard Chartered chair Patrick Gillam said: "Our roots are in the emerging markets and over the years, we have demonstrated our ability to manage in difficult conditions. Many of these markets now have potential for real growth unmatched by those of the developed world. We must ensure that we build on our knowledge and unique position by taking advantage of opportunities we identify. The progress made in 2000 is evidence of our commitment."

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"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John14:6

In Loving Memory

ON THE FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

DIONISIO L. DIOKNO, JR.

of Fairview, Quezon City

who died in the Grace of our Lord on March 10, 2000.

The Holy Mass will be offered on March 10, 2001 at the Good Shepherd Parish, Fairview, Quezon City at 3:00 p.m.

His bereaved wife **AUREA** (nee **Cuevas**); children **CONNIE** and **PERCY MANZO, LOURDES** and **PAK LIU, IRENE, EUGENE, DIONISIO III** and **TRINI** and **JONATHAN**; his grandchildren, brothers, sisters and relatives sincerely convey their deepest gratitude to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with the family in their moment of grief.

Pious readers are requested to remember DIONISIO in their prayers.

"With GOD, all things are possible" Matthew 19:26

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Of Makato, Ibajay and Kalibo, Aklan

Director, PNOC Coal Corporation (1996-1998)
Governor, Province of Aklan (1988-1992: 1992-1995)
Vice Consul, Philippine Consulate, Agaña, Guam (1974-1987)
Foreign Service Officer, DFA (1967-1974)
CPA - Lawyer (UP Law Class 1972)

Peacefully joined her Creator on 8 March 2001 at the age of 54.

To join her parents **Dr. Jose B. Legaspi** and **Mrs. Rafaelina T. Legaspi**; and sisters **Jocelyn, Iris** and **Mercy**.

Her husband **FRENZ**; and children **ROQUE, PHOEBE, PAULYN** and **FRENZ JOSEPH**; her brother **TOTO**; and sister **BABY-LING**; brothers-in-law, uncles and aunties, cousins, relatives and friends request prayer offerings for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City until 12 March.

Interment will be in Kalibo, Aklan.

Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of the late

FAUSTO ENRIQUEZ CHINCUANCO

of Lubao and Florida Blanca, Pampanga

who joined his Creator on February 5, 2001.

Sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and Prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

BARTOLOME A. MONJE

of Laoag City and Paoay, Ilocos Norte
Former Superintendent of the Northern Luzon Teachers College
(now Mariano Marcos State University College of Education)

Peacefully joined our Lord on March 5, 2001 at the age of 99.

(August 24, 1901 - March 5, 2001)

We, his family: wife **JUSTINA P. SUGUITAN**; children and in-laws **MARIETTA (MARIE)** and **VICENTE (VIC) BONOAN, QUIRICO (RIC)** and **VIRGINIA (GIE), RUDOLFO (RUDY)** and **ROSALIA (SALLY), FRANCES (NAHNEE), BARTOLOME JR. (TONY)** and **CES**; grandchildren **MARIEVIC, FENINA, TINA, ROLAN (BOJ)** and **ROWENA (WHENG), RODERICK (JOJO)** and **ALVAN (BATZ)**, remember him with love and request their relatives and friends to pray for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at the family's residence at 73 D. Samonte Street, Laoag City.

Interment will be on Thursday, March 15, 2001 at the Philippine Independent Church Cemetery after the 8:30 AM Mass at the Philippine Independent Church, Laoag City.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."
2 Corinthians 4:14

"You will forever be in our hearts, Daddy."

ATTY. GODOFREDO P. JOSEF

(Retired Chief of Public Attorney's Office (PAO), Makati City)

Passed away on March 6, 2001 at the age of 72.

His bereaved wife **Luming**; children **Marissa** and **Gus, Melinda** and **Dicky, Milanie** and **June, Monina** and **Arnel**; grandchildren **Iriz, Em², Pam, Jerick, Carleen, Kaycee, Nicky, Jop², Kristine** and **Joyce**; and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel 5, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 11, 2001, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina at 9:30 AM.

LINA REYES GOBENCION

of Malolos, Bulacan

passed away on March 6, 2001 at the age of 70.

Her children **ALBERTO** and **ELIZABETH, BEATRIZ, CONRADO** and **NERISSA, DANIEL** and **MINERVA**, and **ERICO**; her grandchildren; sisters **VIOLETA, FLAVIA, AGATHA**; brother **JOSE, JR.** request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, March 13, 2001 at Himlayang Pilipino after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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REGGIE C. ENRIQUEZ

November 9, 1974 - March 9, 2001

His wife **Eileen Escarcha**; baby daughter **Maxine**; parents **Nelson, Ninay** and **Cecille**; brother **Tris** and sister **Queenie**; **Tita Beth**; request the pious readers to say a little prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at the Golden Meadows Multi-Purpose Hall, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City, Metro Manila.

Interment will be announced later.

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Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

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NOVALICHES 350T 9390299

RIZAL

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3620065 Briones 7Ave 5/T 2T8

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HOUSE

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Dasma Mktl 5br 4ba P140T 8133827/28

SANLO 3BR T#5268048/49

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4BR Duplx Proj4 9118238

PROVINCIAL

STA ROSA VILL. P5T 7246251

CONDO/TWNHSE

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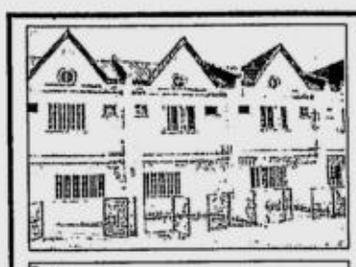

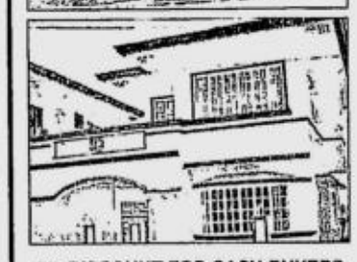

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E-mail : jpn@okane.skyinet.net
Contact person : Ms. Marie / Tina

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS
Pursuant to Mandate of R.A. 7041
One (1) Legislative Staff Officer II (Personal Analyst) Item No. 64-1/SG16-1 Qualification Standards: CS Professional; Bachelor's degree; experience in major aspects of personnel work.
One (1) Legislative Staff Assistant III (Procurement Clerk) Item No. 94/SG11-1 Qualification Standards: CS Subprofessional; Completion of at least two (2) years of college studies; two (2) years relevant experience; eight (8) hours of relevant trainings.

RESERVATION ASST. with or with out experience Call 551-7455 • 831-6661

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

QC REAL ESTATE
Seminar - Review Starts March17 6Saturday 1:30pm Marced Bakeshop Edsa QC 9122304 ; 7216884 Rose

The Advocacy and Information Officer post advertised in the Sunday, March 4 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer should read:
fo.phl@undp.org
(not fo.phi@undp.org)

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc.
602 J.P. Rizal St.
Makati City
will hold an Auction Sale on • March 17, 2001 • at 8:30 A.M. Including all unredeemed items pawned up to October 2000.
V.Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop
Real St., Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an AUCTION SALE • on March 17, 2001 • at 8:30 A.M. Including all unredeemed items pawned up to October 2000
V.Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, ALIW COMPLEX, CALVARIO, MEYC. BULACAN. All unredeemed pledges of Sept 2000 will be auctioned on March 23, 8:30am. *Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.*

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LEGAL NOTICE

DEED OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL PARTITION WITH WAIVER IN FAVOUR OF ONE OF THE HEIRS
NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late ANGELITA A. BURREROS who died intestate on December 6, 2000 at St. Luke's Medical Center 279 E Rodriguez St., Quezon City left a Share Ownership Statement No. 012319045 of 130 shares from the Sun Life Financial Services of Canada as a demutualization benefit has been the subject of Extrajudicial Settlement Among Heirs executed by her legal heirs namely ANTONIO BURREROS and ANTONIETTE A. BURREROS That the parties hereto agree to divide and adjudicate themselves equally whatever proceeds maybe derived from the sale of the shares. However, ANTONIETTE BURREROS, do hereby transfer, cede by way of waiver her equal shares to ANTONIO BURREROS. Acknowledged before Notary Public Atty. Edwin O. Belguen as per Doc No. 64; Page No. 17; Book No XI; Series of 2001
(PDI – Mar. 3, 10 & 17, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement of the estate of the late ELPIDIO MANANSALA BAUTISTA executed by his Heirs and transferring of the said property in favor of PACIFICO M. BAUTISTA, and sworn to before Notary Public Atty. Benjamin S. Mallari of Masantol, Pampanga and docketed under Doc. No. 227 Page 46; Book No. VII; Series of 2000
(PDI-Feb. 24; Mar. 3 & 10 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice are hereby given that the 2 O.R. of St. Peter Life Plan, Inc. was lossed last Jan 27, 01 at Morong Rizal with OR#161851 & 360301AAH any transaction after the OR#360311AAH will be cancelled

Notice is hereby given that the ACR#E044564 CRTV#31275 issued to MR. CAI JIAN CHENG were lost last Feb. 22, 2001 at Pearl Island II Sta. Lucia Subd. Bgy. Puntirin, Valenzuela City. If found pls. call 432-9002
(PDI-March 10 & 17, 2001)

Notice is hereby given on the loss of PLDT Stock Certificate MF0233412 with 67 Shares registered under the name of Balbino K. Hernando or Rosalinda A. Hernando. If no contest received after 1 year, new certificates will be issued
PDI-March 10, 17 & 24, 2001

Notice is hereby given of the Loss of the Sime Darby Pilipinas, Inc. Stock Certificates Nos: 30005, 27364, 25190, 22681, 20589, 17172, 15902, 14248, 12826, 10828, 9319, 8003, 6874, 5641, 5083, 4537, 4005, 3324, under the name of Harry G. Fullen and/or Rosa R. Fullen. If no contest after one (1) year new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Feb. 24, Mar. 3 & 10, 2001)

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Apartment 7-B , Semi furnish Tuscan Condo
7th Floor Tuscan Bldg, Herrera St,
Legazpi Village , Makati City
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Metropolitan, Makati City

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House & Lot w/ Basement
Lot 534 sqm., Floor Area 671m2
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Lot 36 sqm., Flr. area 22 sq. m.
Blk 7, Lot 20 Row House (End unit)
Lot 36 sqm., Flr. area 22 sq. m.
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Queensrow West Molino. Bacoor,
Cavite
2 storey Residential House w/ pool
Bel-Air Subdivision
Makati City

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Makati City
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Unit S-6C (a=96.49 sqm)
Unit S-7 (a=44.99 sqm)
Makati Cinema Square
Pasong Tamo St. Makati City
Unit S- Xb (a=123.65 sqm)
The Gallery Building Amorsolo St. Makati City
Unit 102/106 (a=197.19 sqm)
Unit 108 (a=139.40 sqm)
Unit 112 (a=56.20 sqm)
Unit 233 (a=17.50 sqm)
Mile Long Theme Center Herrera St.
cor. Amorsolo St. Makati City
Commercial Space (a=308.77 sqm)
4th flr Isetann Cinerama Complex
Office Space (a=912 sqm)
2231 Molave Building P. Tamo Makati City
Office Space (a=243 sqm)
Corinthian Plaza, Paseo De Roxas, Makati City
Office Space (a=893 sqm)
Electra House.Herrera cor. Esteban St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Office /Warehouse (a=1,470 sqm)
Villa Lourdes Subd Mataas na Lupa, Lipa City
Office/Warehouse (a=8,140 sqm)
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Block 1, Lot 19 (a=300 sqm)
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Area : 408.20 sqm.
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Wrigley Philippines Inc.
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1258 Makati City

or email your application to **rmorelos@wrigley.com**

Please note: We shall call only qualified applicants for exams and interview.

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P.O. Box No. 1857 MCPO
1258 Makati City

or email your application to **rmorelos@wrigley.com**

Please note: We shall call only qualified applicants for exams and interview.

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines

LETTER OF INTENT

The MWSS wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed Letters of Intent for the design, build, operate and transfer of a 400 MLD Bulk Water Supply Project from Laguna Lake on **March 12, 2001** until **April 16, 2001** at the Office of the Administrator.

A Project Profile may be obtained at the Office of the Deputy Administrator starting on **March 12, 2001** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A detailed Information Memorandum will be issued to the short-listed companies. For inquiries, please call telephone numbers - **928-5691** and **922-2568**.

MWSS reserves the right to reject any company from securing the Information Memorandum and to accept only those who are qualified including established global water system operators and consortia of companies (i.e., funders, investors, manufacturers and contractors).

It is presumed that MWSS has no obligation to any interested parties, if the bidding process has to be deferred or postponed indefinitely for valid reasons.

(Sgd.) **JOSE F. MABANTA**
Administrator

(PDI - March 4, 10 & 17, 2001)

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CHIEF ENGINEER - Male, between 35 - 45 years old. Must be a licensed Chief Engineer and a graduate of a reputable marine/nautical school. Must have a solid experience, preferably in Yanmar and Hanshin engines. To be assigned onboard a research boat.

1st and 2nd ENGINEER - Male, between 35 - 45 years old. Must be a license 1st / 2nd Engineer and a graduate of a reputable marine/nautical school. Must have a solid experience, preferably in Yanmar and Hanshin engines. To be assigned onboard a research boat.

COOK - Between 30 - 40 years of age and of good health. Must have at least five (5) years of experience as a cook and is familiar with Filipino and Chinese dishes. Culinary knowledge and familiarity with other types of foods an advantage. To be assigned on board a research boat.

Those selected will be assured of a good and competitive compensation package. Qualified candidates may please **SEND** their curriculum vitaé with 2x2 I.D. pictures at the above address, or **APPLY IN PERSON** together with their curriculum vitaé on **MARCH 11, 2001** (Sunday) between 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon and look for Ray Maranan on the above address.

VISUAL BASIC & LOTUS NOTES PROGRAMMERS

Preferably with background in SQL and history of working in accounting and purchasing systems

For initial 3 months, fulltime contract with possibility of continuity as permanent employee, and travel abroad.

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National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

One (1) Year Term Contract for Brokerage Services and for the Preparation, Notarization and Documentation of Import Entry Declaration (IED) from **May 1, 2001** to **May 1, 2002** with the following schedules:

	PRE BID Date/Time	BID OPENING Date/Time
Schedule I - Air	March 27, 2001/2:00 p.m.	April 03, 2001/9:00 a.m.
Schedule II - Ocean	March 27, 2001/2:00 p.m.	April 03, 2001/1:30 p.m.
Schedule III - IED	March 27, 2001/2:00 p.m.	April 03, 2001/4:00 p.m.

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Warehouse, Traffic, Transhipment and Disposal Section (WTTDS)—NLRO, 3rd Basement, Plaza Natalia Bldg., #51 Nagullian Road, Baguio City.

Accreditation Forms can be obtained starting **March 12, 2001** at the same office upon payment of PhP50.00 and submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at any telephone directory. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished pre-qualification forms and documentary requirements shall be not later than 5:00 p.m. (official time is WTTDS clock) of **March 20, 2001.**

Bidding documents are available upon payment of PhP100.00 per schedule, which is non-refundable presentation of valid Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE). Last day of issuance of bidding documents is on **March 30, 2001.**

For details, please call WTTDS at (074) 445-4541 to 44.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

Administrative Services Division
NPC—NLRO (GENCO 2/NL TRANSCO)

(PDI – March 10 & 12, 2001)

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Carabao Center invites interested suppliers to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply and delivery of:

Artificial Insemination Supplies
Veterinary Drugs and
Veterinary Laboratory Supplies

Pre-qualification requirements can be secured from Mr. Ronaldo A. Sadural Property Section, Philippine Carabao Center National Genepool & Headquarters CLSU Compound Muñoz Nueva Ecija and Rogel De La Cuesta, Philippine Carabao Center Manila Liaison Office located at 5th Floor DCIEC Bldg., NIA Cmpd., EDSA Quezon City starting on March 12, 2001. Last day of submission of pre-qualification documents will be on March 15, 2001.

Only those who submitted pre-qualification documents are allowed to attend the pre-bidding conference on March 19, 2001, 10:00 A.M. at the PCC Manila Liaison Office at 5th Floor DCIEC Bldg., NIA Cmpd., EDSA Quezon City. Those who failed to attend the pre-bidding conference are disqualified to participate in the bidding.

Sealed bids shall be received by the PCC Manila Liaison Office not later than March 26, 2001, 10:00 A.M. at the same address. Only pre-qualified bidders will be allowed to attend the bidding proper.

The Philippine Carabao Center reserves the right to reject any of all bids, waive any formality in such bids, and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **LIBERTADO C. CRUZ**
Executive Director

Carabao Development Assures Rural Families Advancement thru Better and Accelerated Socio-economic Opportunities

(PDI--March 9 & 10, 2001)

PUYAT SPORTS

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The Executive Vice-President, Puyat Sports
Second Floor, Anson Arcade II Building
A. Arnaiz Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Applications and interviews will be regarded as confidential.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH CLVIII (158)
PASIG CITY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION
FOR REHABILITATION OF:

CIVIL CASE NO. 68343

FIRST DOMINION PRIME HOLDINGS, INC., NAUTICA CANNING CORPORATION, CLEARWATER TUNA CORPORATION (formerly known as INGLENOOK FOODS CORPORATION), AND MARANAW CANNING CORPORATION,
Petitioners.
x———————————————x

ORDER

This is a Petition for Rehabilitation filed by petitioners First Dominion Prime Holdings, Inc. ("FDPHI"), Nautical Canning Corporation ("NCC"), Maranaw Canning Corporation ("MCC") and Clearwater Tuna Corporation ("CTC") which among others, prays for the issuance of a Stay Order pursuant to Section 6, Rule 4 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation. These interim rules were approved by the Supreme Court on November 21, 2000 under A.M. No. 00-8-10-SC and took effect on December 15, 2000 after their publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Petitioners allege that they are primarily engaged in the tuna canning business and claim to be the largest tuna processor in Philippines and also the second largest in Asia in terms of installed production capacity at 480 mt/day or 38% of the Philippines' total tuna canning capacity.

Petitioners further allege that beginning in 1994, seeking to take advantage of a perceived shift in the tuna industry base from Thailand to Southern Philippines due to the latter's proximity to the primary fishing grounds for tuna and the development of modern infrastructure in General Santos City, petitioners steadily increased their combined production capacity through acquisitions and leases of additional canneries, and also invested in a can-making plant and a US cannery. These moves paid off as by 1998, or after only four years of business, petitioners' sales had almost tripled at P3,460,545,502, from P1,232,030,793 in 1995. In 1998 their exports were accounted for 48% of the total tuna exports of the Philippines to the United States, the world's largest importer of canned tunas. Also, 61% of Philippine tuna exports to the United Kingdom, the 3rd largest importer of canned tuna in the world, came from the petitioners. Likewise, 44% of the total Philippine exports of canned tuna to Germany was from petitioners. Overall, petitioners accounted for 6% of the total world canned tuna import market.

Petitioners state that for the achievement of their objective of becoming a major player in the tuna canning business and pushing the Philippines to the forefront of the industry, they needed substantial infusions of capital to finance their assets purchases and improvements and fund their highly capital-intensive operations. Two (2) rounds of private capital raising were completed in 1995 and 1996, but at the same time, petitioners resorted to availment of financial accommodations from various banks (short-term dollar loans, short-term peso loans, and term dollar loans). While they took steps in 1996 towards an initial public offering (IPO) in 1997, the proceeds of which would have been used to settle the loans and fund additional capital requirements, the Asian financial crisis and the slump in the local economy suddenly created adverse market conditions which prevented petitioners' planned IPO.

Worse, petitioners' US-dollar loans which they planned to retire, rapidly ballooned in peso value due to the drastic peso devaluation. The foreign exchange losses of petitioners amounted to P600,100,000.00 in 1997. Net interest expenses rose from P97,547,000.00 in 1997 to a staggering P248,751,000.00 in 1998, P247,348,000.00 in 1999, and P275,147,000.00 in 2000.

After Private Placement Offers (PPOs) in 1998 in lieu of the IPO, petitioners were able to raise P200 Million from Singapore's DBS Capital Investment Ltd. and the Taiwan Asia Pacific Venture Fund Ltd. Moreover, after an P800 Million private offering of petitioner FDPHI's common shares, FCF Fishery Co. Ltd. of Taiwan, the world's largest tuna fist supplier, invested P122 Million in petitioner FDPHI in December 1999.

In 2000, Singapore's Intraco, San Miguel Corporation, and the National Development Company (for ERAP Bonds) expressed interest in staking the petitioners. To date, other investor groups remain likewise interested, but are awaiting the results of the restructuring of petitioners' bank obligations. These include United Resources Asset Management, Inc. (Philippines), FMF Development Corporation (Philippines), and Chevalier (HK) Limited (Hongkong).

In the meantime, in the wake of the 1997 financial crisis, petitioners enforced cost-cutting measures. They also fully disclosed and explained to their bank creditors their financial condition and plans to remedy the situation at that time.

Until the first quarter of 2000, petitioners managed to keep up with its debt servicing to their creditor banks, which however reduced the available working capital needed to optimize petitioners' capacity utilization. The erosion of working capital and the breakdown of talks with potential investors eventually led to the petitioners' declaring a moratorium in payments of interest and principal to their creditor banks. Without the much-needed capital infusion into the business, petitioners were eventually rendered unable to service their obligations as the same fell due.

Petitioners state that since April 2000, they have been meeting with their creditors to negotiate a restructuring scheme and to discuss their proposed strategies to achieve a turn-around of their business. While petitioners believed that closing an agreement with most of the unsecured bank creditors was just a matter of time, on January 5, 2001, Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company filed a Notice of Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of petitioner NCC's real property in General Santos City, compelling petitioners to file this Petition to protect the interests of its workers, creditors and stockholders.

As of the filing of the Petition, petitioners have at least two hundred nine (209) creditors and an aggregate liability of P3,135,695,000.00. On the other hand, as of 31 December 2000, the combined assets of the petitioners totalled P2,337,175,000.00.

The Petition was accompanied by the required documentary supports attached to it as Annexes "A" to "M", which the Court duly examined, as follows:

(i) ANNEX "A" – Petitioners' Brochure providing a profile of its business, organization, and other information
(ii) ANNEX "B" – Petitioners' Consolidated Financial Documents
ANNEX "B-1" – The Audited Financial Statements as of the end of its fiscal year ending 31 December 1999
ANNEX "B-2" – Unaudited Financial Statements as of the end of its last fiscal year ending 31 December 2000
ANNEX "B-3" – The Interim Financial Statements as of 31 January 2001
ANNEX "B-4" – The Schedule of Debts and Liabilities listing all the creditors and indicating the name and address of each creditor, the amount of their respective claims as to principal, interest, and/or penalties due as of the date of filing of the Petition, the nature of the claim, and the pledge, lien, mortgage judgment, or other security given for the payment thereof.
ANNEX "B-5" – The Inventory of Assets listing all the assets of, the nature of each asset, the location and condition thereof, the book value or market value thereof, the corresponding TCT, OCT, CTC and CCT therefor in case of real property, and the evidence of title or ownership in case of movable property, the encumbrances, liens or claims thereon, if any, and the identities and addresses of the lienholders or claimants
ANNEX "B-6" – Schedule of Accounts Receivables indicating the nature and amount of each receivable, the persons from whom due, the dates of maturity, and the category of collectibility
ANNEX "B-7" – The Schedule of Payments and Dispositions of Assets effected within three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition
ANNEX "B-8" – The Detailed Schedules of Cash Flow for the three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition, and the Detailed Schedules of Projected Cash Flow for the succeeding three (3) months.
(iii) ANNEX "C" – Petitioner FDPHI Documents
ANNEX "C-1" – The Audited Financial Statements as of the end of its fiscal year ending 31 December 1999
ANNEX "C-2" – Unaudited Financial Statements as of the end of its last fiscal year ending 31 December 2000.
ANNEX "C-3" – The Interim Financial Statements as of 31 January 2001.
ANNEX "C-4" – The Schedule of Debts and Liabilities listing all the creditors and indicating the name and address of each creditor, the amount of their respective claims as to principal, interest, and/or penalties due as of the date of filing of the Petition, the nature of the claim, and the pledge, lien, mortgage judgment, or other security given for the payment thereof.
ANNEX "C-5" – None.
ANNEX "C-6" – Schedule of Accounts Receivables indicating the nature and amount of each receivable, the persons from whom due, the dates of maturity, and the category of collectibility
ANNEX "C-7" – The Schedule of Payments and Dispositions of Assets effected within three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition.
ANNEX "C-8" – The Detailed Schedules of Cash Flow for the three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition, and the Detailed Schedules of Projected Cash Flow for the succeeding three (3) months.
(iv) ANNEX "D" – Petitioner MCC Documents
ANNEX "D-1" – The Audited Financial Statements as of the end of its fiscal year ending 31 December 1999.
ANNEX "D-2" – Unaudited Financial Statements as of the end of its last fiscal year ending 31 December 2000.
ANNEX "D-3" – The Interim Financial Statements as of 31 January 2001.
ANNEX "D-4" – The Schedule of Debts and Liabilities listing all the creditors and indicating the name and address of each creditor, the amount of their respective claims as to principal, interest, and/or penalties dues as of the date of filing of the Petition, the nature of the claim, and the pledge, lien, mortgage judgment, or other security given for the payment thereof.
ANNEX "D-5" – The Inventory of Assets listing all the assets, the nature of each asset, the location and condition thereof, the book value or market value thereof, the corresponding TCT, OCT, CTC and CCT therefor in case of real property, and the evidence of title or ownership in case of movable property, the encumbrances, liens or claims thereon, if any, and the identities and addresses of the lienholders or claimants
ANNEX "D-6" – Schedule of Accounts Receivables indicating the nature and amount of each receivable, the persons from whom due, the dates of maturity, and the category of collectibility
ANNEX "D-7" – The Schedule of Payments and Disposition of Assets effected within three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition.
ANNEX "D-8" – The Detailed Schedules of Cash Flow for the three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition, and the Detailed Schedules of Projected Cash Flow for the succeeding three (3) months.
(v) ANNEX "E" – Petitioner NCC Documents
ANNEX "E-1" – The Audited Financial Statements as of the end of its fiscal year ending 31 December 1999.
ANNEX "E-2" – Unaudited Financial Statements as of 31 January 2001.
ANNEX "E-3" – The Interim Financial Statements as of 31 January 2001
ANNEX "E-4" – The Schedule of Debts and Liabilities listing all the creditors and indicating the name and address of each creditor, the amount of their respective claims as to principal, interest and/or penalties due as of the date of filing of the Petition, the nature of the claim, and the pledge, lien, mortgage judgment, or other security given for the payment thereof.
ANNEX "E-5" – The Inventory of Assets listing all the assets, the nature of each asset, the location and condition thereof, the book value or market value thereof, the corresponding TCT, OCT, CTC and CCT therefor in case of real property and the evidence of title or ownership in case of movable property, the encumbrances, liens or claims thereon, if any, and the identities and addresses of the lienholders or claimants.
ANNEX "E-6" – Schedule of Accounts Receivables indicating the nature and amount of each receivable, the persons from whom due, the dates of maturity, and the category of collectibility
ANNEX "E-7" – The Schedule of Payments and Dispositions of Assets effected within three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition.
ANNEX "E-8" – The Detailed Schedules of Cash Flow for three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition, and the Detailed Schedules of Projected Cash Flow for the succeeding three (3) months.
(vi) ANNEX "F" – Petitioner CTC Documents
ANNEX "F-1" – The Audited Financial Statements as of the end of its fiscal year ending 31 December 1999
ANNEX "F-2" – Unaudited Financial Statements as of the end of its last fiscal year ending 31 December 2000.
ANNEX "F-3" – The Interim Financial Statements as of 31 January 2001.
ANNEX "F-4" – The Schedule of Debts and Liabilities listing all the creditors and indicating the name and address of each creditor, the amount of their respective claim as to principal, interest, and/or penalties due as of the date of filing of the Petition, the nature of the claim, and the pledge, lien, mortgage judgment, or other security given for the payment thereof.
ANNEX "F-5" – The Inventory of Assets listing all the assets, the nature of each asset, the location and condition thereof, the book value or market value thereof, the corresponding TCT, OCT, CTC and CCT therefor in case of real property, and the evidence of title or ownership in case of movable property, the encumbrances, liens or claims thereon, if any, and the identities and addresses of the lienholders or claimants.
ANNEX "F-6" – Schedule of Accounts Receivables indicating the nature and amount of each receivable, the persons from whom due, the dates of maturity and the category of collectibility.
ANNEX "F-7" – The Schedule of Payments and Disposition of Assets effected within three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition.
ANNEX "F-8" – The Detailed Schedules of Cash Flow for three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition, and the Detailed Schedules of Projected Cash Flow for the succeeding three (3) months.
(vii) ANNEX "G" – FDCP, INC. Documents
ANNEX "G-1" – The Audited Financial Statements as of the end of its fiscal year ending 31 December 1999
ANNEX "G-2" – Unaudited Financial Statements as of the end of its last fiscal year ending 31 December 2000.
ANNEX "G-3" – The Interim Financial Statements as of 31 January 2001.
ANNEX "G-4" – The Schedule of Debts and Liabilities listing all the creditors and indicating the name and address of each creditor, the amount of their respective claim as to principal, interest, and/or penalties due as of the date of filing of the Petition, the nature of the claim, and the pledge, lien, mortgage judgment, or other security given for the payment thereof.
ANNEX "G-5" – The Inventory of Assets listing all the assets, the nature of each asset, the location and condition thereof, the book value or market value thereof, the corresponding TCT, OCT, CTC and CCT therefor in case of real property, and the evidence of title or ownership in case of movable property, the encumbrances, liens or claims thereon, if any, and the identities and addresses of the lienholders or claimants.
ANNEX "G-6" – Schedule of Accounts Receivables indicating the nature and amount of each receivable, the person from whom due, the dates of maturity and the category of collectibility.
ANNEX "G-7" – The Schedule of Payments and Dispositions of Assets effected within three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition
ANNEX "G-8" – The Detailed Schedules of Cash Flow for three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition and the Detailed Schedules of Projected Cash Flow for the succeeding three (3) months.
(viii) ANNEX "H" – Philtuna Packing Corporation Documents.
ANNEX "H-1" – The Audited Financial Statements as of the end of its fiscal year ending 31 December 1999
ANNEX "H-2" – Unaudited Financial Statements as of the end of its last fiscal year ending 31 December 2000.
ANNEX "H-3" – The Interim Financial Statements as of 31 January 2001.
ANNEX "H-4" – The Schedule of Debts and Liabilities listing all the creditors and indicating the name and address of each creditor, the amount of their respective claim as to principal, interest, and/or penalties due as of the date of filing of the Petition, the nature of the claim, and the pledge, lien, mortgage judgment, or other security given for the payment thereof.
ANNEX "H-5" – The Inventory of Assets listing all the assets, the nature of each asset, the location and condition thereof, the book value or market value thereof, the corresponding TCT, OCT, CTC and CCT therefor in case of real property, the encumbrances, liens or claims thereon, if any, and the identities and addresses of the lienholders or claimants.
ANNEX "H-6" – Schedule of Accounts Receivables indicating the nature and amount of each receivable, the persons from whom due, the dates of maturity, and the category of collectibility
ANNEX "H-7" – The Schedule of Payments and Disposition of Assets effected within three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition.
ANNEX "H-8" – The Detailed Schedules of Cash Flow for the three (3) months immediately preceding the filing of this Petition, and the Detailed Schedules of Projected Cash Flow for the succeeding three (3) months.
(ix) ANNEX "I" – The Rehabilitation Plan proposed by petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies, conforming to the minimal requirements set out in Section 5, Rule 4 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation.
(x) ANNEX "J" – The Statement of Possible Claims by or against petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies which contains a brief statement of the facts which might give rise to the claim and an estimate of the probable amount thereof.
(xi) ANNEX "K" – The Affidavit of General Financial Condition containing the answers to the questions or matters prescribed in Annex "A" of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation.
(xii) ANNEX "L" – The List of Three (3) Nominees for the position of Rehabilitation Receiver as well as their qualifications and addresses, including but not limited to their telephone numbers, fax number and e-mail addresses.
(xiii) ANNEX "M" – The Verified Certification attesting that the (a) filing of the Petition has been duly authorized; and (b) the directors and have irrevocably approved and/or consented to, in accordance with existing laws, all actions or matters necessary and desirable to rehabilitate the debtor including but not limited to amendments to the articles of incorporation and by-laws, increase or decrease in the authorized capital stock, issuance of bonded indebtedness, alienation, transfer, or encumbrance of assets of the debtor, and the modification of shareholder's rights.

The proposed Rehabilitation Plan of the petitioners, Annex "I" of the Petition, has the following salient features:

(a) Raising P500 Million in fresh equity in two stages, from new as well as existing investors to correct its capital structure and improve gearing ratio as well as to provide working capital to optimize the utilization of the canneries' installed production capacities. Raising this amount in two stages instead of one is necessitated by the existing lack of investor confidence carried over from the immediately preceding Government Administration, the perceived political instability in the country, and issues of peace and order, particularly in Mindanao. A two-stage exercise would make it easier to surmount these perceptions.

(b) Forming of strategic alliances with other investors, including alliances with other investors, including joint ventures and similar arrangements;

(c) Continuing improvements in product costs, developing new markets, and focusing on premium markets which would yield higher gross profit margins;

(d) Maintaining and improving its presence in its traditional export markets;

(e) Servicing and eventual full repayment of all debts and liabilities, focusing on debt restructuring, inclusive of conversion of debt to equity or quasi-equity.

Petitioners allege that their rehabilitation shall benefit the general body of creditors, employees, stockholders, and the Government because creditors will get paid, employees will retain their jobs, those retrenched will be rehired, trade suppliers will be given increased business, stockholders will earn on their investments, and the government will profit from taxes collected.

WHEREFORE, the Petition being sufficient in form and substance, a stay order pursuant to Section 6, Rule 4 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation is issued as follows:

(a) Staying enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by court action or otherwise, including the extra-judicial foreclosure proceedings in EJF Case No. 01-02, entitled "Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. vs. Nautica Canning Santos City, against petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies, comprising of petitioner First Dominion Prime Holdings, Inc., and its subsidiaries, petitioners Nautica Canning Corporation, Maranaw Canning Corporation and Clearwater Tuna Corporation, their guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with the petitioners;

(b) Prohibiting petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies from selling, encumbering, transferring, or disposing in any manner any of its properties, except in the ordinary course of business;

(c) Prohibiting petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as of the date of filing of the Petition;

(d) Prohibiting the suppliers of goods or services of petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies from withholding supply of goods and services in the course of business for as long as petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies makes payments for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of this Stay Order; and

(e) Directing the payment in full of all administrative-expenses incurred after the issuance of this Stay Order.

Mr. Monico V. Jacob is appointed rehabilitation receiver who can assume the position upon his taking an oath and after posting a bond in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand (P500,000.00) Pesos, executed in favor of petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies, to guarantee that he will faithfully discharge his duties and the orders of this Court.

Let this Stay Order be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks from date of the Order.

All creditors and all interested parties (including the Securities and Exchange Commission) are directed to file and serve on the petitioner FDPHI Group of Companies, their verified comment on, or opposition to, the Petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing. Within such time as to enable all creditors and interested parties to file their comment on, or opposition to, the Petition and to prepare them for the initial hearing of the Petition, they are directed to secure from this Court copies of the Petition and its annexes.

Let the initial hearing of the Petition be set on April 19, 2001 at 8:30 in the morning.

SO ORDERED.

Pasig City; February 22, 2001.

(Sgd.) JOSE R. HERNANDEZ
Judge

(PDI – March 3 & 10, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Central Luzon Cluster

INVITATION TO BID

The Social Security System is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties, to wit:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	MINIMUM BID
1.	215 sq.m. TCT No. T-205907 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L8 B9 Mt. View Village, Cabcaben Mariveles, Bataan	P 332,700.00
2.	297 sq.m. TCT No. T-208195 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L6 B17 Mt. View Village, Cabcaben Mariveles, Bataan	402,000.00
3.	215 sq.m. TCT No. T-203026 Bungalow-3 BR w/ 2 T&B	L34 B9 #12 Bulusan St., Mt. View Vill. Cabcaben, Mariveles, Bataan	253,300.00
4.	200 sq.m. TCT No. T-165168 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L44 B2 Polaris Subd., Cabcaben Mariveles, Bataan	300,500.00
5.	200 sq.m. TCT No. T-165169 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L38 B2 Polaris Subd., Cabcaben Mariveles, Bataan	257,400.00
6.	204 sq.m. TCT No. T-202103 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L9 B10 Sea Breeze Subd., Bacong Limay, Bataan	220,000.00
7.	219 sq.m. TCT No. T-85107 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	Lot F Blk K-6 Villa Benita Subd. Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija	407,000.00
8.	202 sq.m. TCT No. T-85105 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L8-A B5 Villa Benita Subd. Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija	429,600.00
9.	255 sq.m. TCT No. 233404 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L10 B1 Rolling Hills San Nicolas, Bamban, Tarlac	132,900.00
10.	254 sq.m. TCT No. 291431 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L5 B1 Rolling Hills San Nicolas, Bamban, Tarlac	169,200.00
11.	252 sq.m. TCT No. 291440 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L2 B1 Rolling Hills San Nicolas, Bamban, Tarlac	170,000.00
12.	259 sq.m. TCT No. 233373 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L9 B1 Rolling Hills San Nicolas, Bamban, Tarlac	208,000.00
13.	182 sq.m. TCT No. 291434 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L5 B23 Villa San Jose Cutcut, Capas, Tarlac	246,000.00
14.	183 sq.m. TCT No. 291436 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L12 B23 Villa San Jose Cutcut, Capas, Tarlac	272,000.00
15.	206 sq.m. TCT No. 290726 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L30 B24 Villa San Jose Cutcut, Capas, Tarlac	246,100.00
16.	378 sq.m. TCT No. 290729 Bungalow-2BR w/ 1 T&B	L13 Sto. Domingo, Capas Tarlac	326,200.00
17.	300 sq.m. TCT No. 290730 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L6 B5 Vargas Subd., Sto. Domingo Capas, Tarlac	160,300.00
18.	363 sq.m. TCT No. 230814 Bungalow-3 BR w/ 1 T&B	L18 B2 Dona Lutgarda Subd. Poblacion, Capas, Tarlac	352,600.00
19.	200 sq.m. TCT No. 291433 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L6 B4 Hilltop Subd. Capas, Tarlac	214,700.00
20.	240 sq.m. TCT No. 232438 Lot Only	L19 B24 San Roque, San Rafael Tarlac	240,000.00
21.	1491 sq.m. TCT No. 140723 Lot Only	L4033 Bobon I, Camiling Tarlac	223,700.00
22.	120 sq.m. TCT No. T-47726 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L24 B27 La Sirena Subd. Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	154,600.00
23.	120 sq.m. TCT No. T-47731 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L23 B27 La Sirena Subd. Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	158,200.00
24.	120 sq.m. TCT No. T-47740 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L25 B27 La Sirena Subd. Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	158,500.00
25.	120 sq.m. TCT No. T-47729 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L4 B27 La Sirena Subd. Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	145,000.00
26.	120 sq.m. TCT No. T-47730 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L11 B27 La Sirena Subd. Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	154,800.00
27.	120 sq.m. TCT No. T-47732 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L8 B2 La Sirena Subd. Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	159,400.00
28.	120 sq.m. TCT No. T-47737 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L13 B27 La Sirena Subd. Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	154,800.00
29.	120 sq.m. TCT No. T-47747 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L3 B2 La Sirena Subd. Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	146,500.00
30.	120 sq.m. TCT No. T-47734 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L8 B3 La Sirena Subd. Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	148,600.00
31.	300 sq.m. TCT No. T-47736 Condemned	L14 B7 La Sirena Subd. Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	300,000.00
32.	120 sq.m. TCT No. T-47739 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L16 B27 La Sirena Subd. Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	156,400.00
33.	120 sq.m. TCT No. T-47735 Bungalow-2 BR w/ 1 T&B	L1 B2 La Sirena Subd. Cabitaugan, Subic, Zambales	130,000.00

Complete description/specification of the properties including Bidding Forms and Instruction to Bidders are available at the Loans Section, SSS Tarlac Branch Office, Macabulos Drive, San Vicente, Tarlac City. Please contact Engr. Marcelino O. Sison, Jr at Telephone Nos. 982-8902 / 982-8600.

Sealed bids should be dropped at the Bid Box located at Asst. Vice President's Office, Tarlac Hub Branch Office Macabulos Drive, San Vicente, Tarlac City from 8:00 a.m. at 2:00 p.m. on April 6, 2001. The bids should be labeled Acquired Assets Disposal Committee c/o Social Security System, Macabulos Drive, San Vicente, Tarlac City.

Bidder's deposit, equivalent to not less than 10% of the bid price in cash (Philippine money/U.S. Dollar) or in Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check in favor of the SSS must be enclosed with the sealed bid. (Any other form or draft purportedly as manner of payment is not acceptable. The bidder must also sign the sealed envelope across its flap. Sealed bid without the bidder's bond will not be entertained.

The Award shall be granted to the highest bidder. The sale of properties be "As Is, Where Is" and the winning bidder shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property at their own expense without seeking the assistance of SSS.

After deducting the bid deposit from the bid price, the balance shall be payable in Cash within 30 days or an option to amortize within 12 months upon receipt of notice of approval at 13% rate of interest per annum compounded monthly.

The System reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

All awards shall be subject to the approval of the Social Security Commission whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.

(Sgd.) MERCEDITAS G. CACULITAN
Senior Vice President
Chairman-Acquired Assets
Disposal Committee

(PDI – March 10, 2001)

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GENCO 1-01-001 (PBT)

The Generation Company 1, with office at NPC Old Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila invites interested LICENSED CUSTOMS BROKERS TO APPLY FOR ACCREDITATION AND TO BID IN THE PUBLIC BIDDING FOR LONG TERM BROKERAGE SERVICES for NPC importations arriving from April 1, 2001 to March 30, 2002 for Air and Ocean carriers.

The services required cover clearance of cargo from Customs custody and delivery to various NPC destinations within Metro Manila and other designated delivery points in Luzon.

The schedule of activities in connection with the public bidding is as follows:

Issuance of Bid Documents	-	March 01, 2001 - March 21, 2001
Pre-Bid Conference	-	March 12, 2001 at 2:00 PM
Bidding Date/Time	-	March 22, 2001 at 10:00 AM
Bidding Place	-	MMD Bidding Room Ground Floor, Port Area, Manila

Prequalification/Accreditation forms shall be available to non-accredited customs brokers during working days from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon. These forms shall be submitted and approved by the Accreditation Committee before they are allowed to participate in the bidding.

Bid documents shall be issued to accredited customs brokers from the Materials Management Division upon payment of P200.00 per schedule which is non-refundable.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the Corporation.

For further information, please contact tel. nos. 527-48-78 and 527-48-80 loc. 242 and 228.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Officer-In-Charge
Regional Adm. & Financial Svcs.

(PDI--March 7 & 10, 2001)

NOTICE OF TRANSFER

ALPHA SHIPMANAGEMENT CORP.

has transferred office to:

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Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 523-5568
Fax No. 523-2617
e-mail: alphashp@compass.com.ph

ANNOUNCEMENT

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Contraceptive use among RP women down, says survey

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

LESS than half of the country's women of childbearing age practice family planning despite government efforts to contain the population, one of the fastest growing in Asia.

A report by the National Statistics Office said only 47 percent of married women 15-49 years took measures to avoid pregnancy last year, compared to 49.3 percent in 1999. Women in poor households were less likely to practice family planning and contraceptive use was more prevalent in urban areas.

The pill remained the most popular contraceptive method with 13.7 percent currently married women taking it. Female sterilization ranked second with 10.6 percent, followed closely by calendar or rhythm method with 9.5 percent.

The study attributed the decrease in the overall contraceptive prevalence rate to a reduction in the use of traditional family planning methods, particularly the withdrawal method that fell from 6.7 percent in 1999 to 4.8 percent last year.

The prevalence rate of modern contraceptive methods also fell, although only slightly, from 32.4 percent in 1999 to 32.3 percent in 2000.

Contraceptive use among currently married women was highest at ages 35-39 years (54.4 percent) and was lowest at ages 15-19 years (22.9 percent). About a third (34.4 percent) of those in the oldest age group (45-49 years) reported using a family planning method.

Younger women want the pill

The most common methods used by younger women differ from those preferred by older women. Women below 40 years old prefer to take the pill than to undergo female sterilization or resort to the rhythm method. On the other hand, those aged 40 years and above prefer female sterilization and the calendar or rhythm method.

The median age for female sterilization was 29.9 years. This figure is lower than that in 1996 (30.1 years) and 1999 (31.3 years), higher than that in 1998 (29.6 years) and the same as that in 1997.

Contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) was highest among those with three children (57.9 percent), followed by those with four children (57.6 percent). As expected, childless women have the lowest CPR (3.9 percent).

The pill is most preferred by women with one to two children (13.9 percent and 20 percent, respectively) and female sterilization by women with three up to six children (16.8 percent, 17.8 percent, 15.6 percent and 13.3 percent, respectively).

Women with seven or more children prefer the calendar or rhythm method (9.5 percent) than female sterilization (8.1 percent) and the pill (6.8 percent).

The NSO survey was financed by the US Agency for International Development, which has been actively helping the country implement a population program. The Catholic church opposes artificial birth control methods.

The Philippine population, which reached 75.3 million last year, is rising at about 2 percent a year and the total is forecast to double in 35 years.

With report from AFP

The case of the 'Miracle Mom'

By Rafael R. Castillo, M.D.

EVERYTHING was still a blur when 30-year-old Nanie woke up from a weeklong coma. She could recognize the comforting voice of her doctor and her husband. She tried to speak to them to ask what had happened but no word came out of her parched lips.

"Thank God you're okay now," Nanie's husband said clutching her hand, and with great excitement, he added, "We have a baby boy! He's a little premature but the doctor said he'll be fine." Though still dazed, Nanie managed to whisper a short prayer thanking God as tears of joy welled down her cheeks.

"Everything's a miracle; we'll call you the 'Miracle Mom,' Nanie," her doctor gleefully exclaimed.

It was Nanie's first pregnancy. She was doing well until her 8th month of pregnancy when she started feeling unduly tired with her usual daily activities. She also noted the swelling of her face and hands. She reported back to her obstetrician who noted that her blood pressure was still theoretically normal at 130/85 but since her usual BP as recorded in her previous prenatal checkups was only 90/60, this increase in her BP alarmed her doctor. She checked Nanie's urine and found that she had significant proteinuria, which meant she was already spilling out a lot of protein in the urine.

MEDICAL FILES

Pregnancy-induced

"I'm afraid you're developing preeclampsia, which is a pregnancy-induced type of high blood pressure. It is associated with a lot of complications and it is important that we monitor you closely," the doctor said and as she explained what preeclampsia was all about, there was a serious tone in her voice.

Preeclampsia is an elevation of the blood pressure that develops between the 20th week of pregnancy and one week after delivery. It is more common in first pregnancies. It is accompanied by the spillage of protein in the urine and retention of fluid or edema. It is also called by other names such as toxemia of pregnancy, pregnancy-induced hypertension or gestational hypertension. Eclampsia is a more severe form of preeclampsia that results in a seizure or a coma.

The cause of preeclampsia and eclampsia is not too well understood but severe constriction or spasm of the blood vessels has been implicated due to deficiency of a vasodilating substance called prostaglandin. It is apparently triggered by the pregnancy and in severe cases, termination of the pregnancy by delivering the fetus is imperative.

The long list of risks of preeclampsia on the mother includes bleeding in the brain, heart failure, disseminated bleeding, liver or renal failure, convulsions and death. The fetus in the womb may also suffer from oxygen deprivation, growth retardation and death.

A dreaded preeclampsia variant is called the HELLP syndrome, which consists of abnormalities in the liver and blood problems causing bleeding. Recognition of this problem should prompt immediate delivery of the fetus.

Not quite stable in their finances, Nanie did not heed the doctor's suggestion of hospital confinement and just requested the doctor to prescribe her some medicines. She was advised to have a complete bed rest at home and to avoid any physical or visual stimulation such as excessively bright lighting. She was encouraged to lie on her left side to ease the pressure on the inferior vena cava, which is the large vein in the abdomen bringing back the blood to the heart. This would improve the blood flow back to the heart and out of the heart.

"How about my diet, doc? Should it be strictly low-salt and should I cut down on my water intake since I have edema or swelling?" Nanie asked.

"That's a common misconception," the doctor replied, "a strict low-salt diet and excessive fluid restriction might even do more harm than good. We encourage preeclamptic patients to consume a normal amount of salt and drink more water."

Noncompliant

Nanie was supposed to follow up after 3 days but being typically noncompliant as she was, she didn't report back to her doctor. She had the false sense of complacency that so long as she followed her doctor's advice, she would be okay. She didn't even bother to monitor her blood pressure.

Two weeks later, she had severe headache together with blurring of vision. These progressively got worse prompting her to go back to the hospital. As their taxi approached the hospital driveway, she went into a seizure and passed out. What her doctor feared might happen, already happened. She was rushed to the hospital emergency room and was promptly attended by the doctors and nurses at the ER.

Things happened so fast. Before the doctors could even take Nanie's vital signs, her heart stopped and she also stopped breathing. Nanie's husband wished everything was only a bad dream and hoped they would wake up soon. But it was not a dream. Everything was real as the medical and nursing team frantically tried to resuscitate her and pump back life in Nanie to save her and her baby. Nanie's obstetrician also rushed down from her clinic to join the resuscitation effort.

In coma

After more than half an hour, which seemed like eternity to Nanie's husband, the doctor emerged from the cubicle where Nanie was being resuscitated to talk to him.

"We need to make an urgent decision..." she stammered as she tried to grope for the right words. "Nanie's heart started beating again and the mechanical ventilator is helping her breathe, but she's in a coma right now and quite honestly, considering that her heart stopped for quite some time, we're not sure if she'll pull through or...will ever wake up again. But we need to do an emergency Caesarian-section to deliver the baby. This is our best bet to save her and your baby."

For a minute or so, Nanie's husband remained speechless. Finally, he uttered, "Whatever you believe is best...you decide, doc."

The Caesarian-section took less than an hour. It was a baby boy and the pediatrician was quite happy about the baby's status considering what he'd been through. As for Nanie, she remained in coma and her blood pressure was labile during the first 48 hours. Subsequently, it stabilized even without medication and she started to breathe on her own without the assistance of the mechanical ventilator.

Every time the doctor made rounds, Nanie's husband would ask, "Won't she wake up yet, doc?" The doctor could only give a vague reply, "We don't know when she'll spring back from her coma. I'm hoping that she would wake up soon...even if it takes a miracle! For our part, we've done just about everything Medicine can offer."

A full week after her heart stopped beating, Nanie woke up to start her second lease on life and everyone in the hospital called her a "Miracle Mom." To this day, she remains a living proof that when medical science runs out of pills and sera to extend life, one can still hope for God's simple miracle which defies all theories and hypotheses on the complex science of life.

Comments from all over... and the launch of online Science column

BY QUEENA N. LEE-CHUA

THE VOLUME of mail I receive regularly has steadily been increasing, especially with the advent of e-mail. Some reader comments are particularly urgent, so let us now see what they have to say.

Here is some good news for readers who have been requesting information about the Bates eye correction program (Sept.16, 2000). From Charles Olson, D.C. of Davao, Mindanao [chirondoc@bigfoot.com] comes this helpful hint:

While in Los Angeles in 1990, my wife and I discovered a wonderful Bates Vision teacher who had been trained by Bates himself. The exercises and training restored my wife's eye problem to normal. A few weeks ago, I ran across the following URL from On-Line Books:

http://www.i-see.org/perfect_sight/

This features the following book by William Horatio Bates: "The Cure of Imperfect Sight by Treatment Without Glasses" (based on the 1920 edition). All 32 chapters are available free at the above address. By the way, On-Line Books can be found at http: // digital.library.upenn.edu/books/

From Rommel Feria, a Ph. D. student at the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine in London, England [digitadvipr@netscape.net], comes this addendum to the Artificial Intelligence article of Dec.16, 2000:

I read your online article on Inquirer Interactive, and wrote so that you can add London, England, to your long list of readers. To add to the AI thread, I would like to tell you of my colleague, Prof. Prospero Naval of the Department of Computer Science, University of the Philippines, Diliman. Just like my fellow Pinoy-UK member, Elmer Dadios, he heads the team for mini robot soccer and was in fact awarded a first and third prize in the recent tournament in Australia. He beat Elmer's team and a whole lot of others from overseas! You might want to get in touch with him as well, at his office in UP. His e-mail address is naval@cs.engg.upd.edu.ph.

Zaire Aguilar of UP Diliman [zaire_pistol@usa.net] has the following request:

I am a graduating education student (BSEd Math). I am wondering if you know of some book on the lives of great mathematicians or on math trivia or games. I would really like to teach math and I want my future students to be really interested in the subject, I bought your book "Eureka!" because I know it would help me prepare for my profession. Do you have a new book coming out?

I am delighted to know you would love to teach math—not many people feel that way. There are lots of books on mathematicians and math puzzles available at Powerbooks and National Bookstore. I hesitate to recommend just one, because there are so many good ones. I suggest you take the time to browse through these stores and select the appropriate ones for the grade level you will be handling. If not, go to Amazon.com and look through their selections. As for my books, you may find "Straight Talk on Everyday Mysteries" (Anvil, 1998) and "Ten Outstanding Filipino Scientists" (Anvil, 2000) useful. The latter contains profiles on the lives and work of excellent Filipino scientists, among them some mathematicians.

Ara Crissele Joson [foututoi@edsamail.com.ph] has a similar query.

I am a BS Industrial Pharmacy student of UP Manila. I am currently doing a research paper on math phobia as a major requirement for my Communications II subject. I read your article "Psychologists Talk About Math" (Feb. 27, 1999) and it helped me a lot. I hope you can send me additional information about this topic (causes and effects, how it develops, etc.) and share some of your insights.

I have been writing about math phobia since 1991, and the best way for you to read them is to get my books "Why Be Afraid of Math" and "In the Beginning" at Bookmark, and "Eureka!" at National Bookstore. You can also surf the Net—there are tons of information on math phobia. Just make sure that you obtain your information from creditable sources (academe, research laboratories, journals and so on). Shy away from any site, which purports to sell you a "miracle cure."

John Opena Moncada [jdomspike@eudoramail.com] has a frantic query:

I am a third year student in Regional Science High in Region 10. My term paper is all about why some students hate math and my subtopics are: the math revolution, advantages of the subject to the world, the psychological cause and effect of math animosity and is there a way out of math hatred. I hope I can get the answers by next Saturday since I really need them badly.

If you have read my previous columns, I have stated time and again that I am not a substitute researcher for students doing papers and theses. I do not give answers upon pain of a deadline, except for cases of emergency, which your case definitely isn't. Why don't you go to your library and spend some time reading on math and psychology books? Or you can always surf the Net—there are loads of articles on the importance of math. Or you can see my answer to the letter above.

* * *

I will be meeting you online! Starting next Wednesday (March 14, 2001), I will be writing a weekly online column on science, mathematics and technology for INQ7 Interactive, a joint venture of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA 7. The website can be reached through www.inq7.net. (INQ7 Interactive was launched last Feb. 27 with President Macapagal as guest of honor.) The column will contain my thoughts on science (with emphasis on local issues), with occasional question-and-answer portions and brainteasers. The online articles would be separate from this usual (Saturday) print column. I would appreciate hearing from you about possible content and emphasis. What you would like to see featured? I am pleased to note the increasing visibility of science issues in media, and am happy to have another venue to communicate with you. I commend these two companies for venturing into interactive media. See you on the Web!

* * *

Send your queries to me at blessbook@yahoo.com.

Making breast-self exam part of your habit

WOMEN go to great lengths to achieve their desired look. They select the finest underwear like bras to accentuate their breasts and make them feel more feminine and confident.

But bras are only good if you have breasts to begin with.

Alarmingly, most women these days, particularly the young ones, are oblivious to the menace that is breast cancer. Every year, breast cancer affects millions of women worldwide. But you can protect yourself from this dreaded illness by regularly conducting a Breast Self-Exam or BSE.

The Department of Health (DOH) says the best way to detect breast cancer in its earliest stages is to routinely check your breasts for signs and symptoms of the disease like any new, hard lump or thickening, change in breast size or shape. Dimpling or puckering of the skin, swelling, redness or warmth, pain in one spot that doesn't vary with your monthly cycle. Pulling in of the nipple, sudden nipple discharge and an itchy, sore or scaling area on one nipple.

Like any beauty regimen, BSE must be incorporated into every woman's routine to avoid the onslaught of breast cancer. It involves two main steps: looking at and feeling your breasts for any change. If you notice any change in the normal look and feel of your breasts, see a medical professional. All women should perform BSE every month by age 20. It should be done once a month, a few days after the last day of your period.

At your next doctor's appointment, ask a trained medical professional to show you the right techniques for BSE.

If you feel sure that something is wrong, discuss your breast health needs with your gynecologist or surgeon immediately. Beat breast cancer by BSE and enjoy all the fancy bras to match your healthy breasts.

8 UP pharmacy studes make it to top 10

THE GRADUATES of the UP Manila College of Pharmacy registered anew a 100-percent passing performance at the recent pharmacist licensure examination while eight of them landed in the top 10 places.

The 17 successful examinees are Ryan C. Pekson (1st), Czarina R. Ulibas (2nd), Vreneli P. Cristobal (3rd), Ma. Magnolia S. Magisa (4th), Jesipaz Michelle P. Betterley (5th), Louvell B. Enriquez (6th), Jennifer D. Apuan (7th), Michelle U. Marquez (8th), Lizbeth B. Santiago (11th), Ma. Nelia B. Oriel (12th), Mildred G. Anupol (14th), Michael Lester B. Velasco (15th), Angeline D. Magbitang (16th), Ethel A. Martillo (18th), Marie Grace F. Lanzuela (19th), Marilen Rendon (20th) and Carlota C. San Lorenzo.

What to do if you get a heart attack

BY THE CHARTER STAFF

PATIENTS succumbing to heart attacks are getting younger and younger and complications of attacks are getting deadlier and deadlier, experts say.

According to Dr. Noe Babilonia, president of the Philippine Heart Association, the increasing prevalence of heart attacks is most probably because of the predisposing risk factors that modern man is exposed to—smoking, high-fat diet, lack of exercise or sedentary living, obesity and excessive stress.

He believes that one way to reduce heart attack-related deaths is to know it well enough to prevent it and should it occur, to recognize it early before complications set in.

Babilonia says that a heart attack occurs when the arteries that supply blood to the heart muscle get clogged by fatty build up in the blood vessel wall and by a blood clot triggered by the extrusion of this fatty material into the blood vessel.

"Blood carries oxygen to the heart muscle. When the blood flow is stopped or slowed down, the muscle does not receive the oxygen it needs. Chest pains, called angina, occur. If the flow of blood and oxygen are stopped long enough, some of the heart muscle will die. This is a heart attack which is called an acute myocardial infarction," explains Babilonia.

Damage to the heart may be slight, which may not significantly affect the ability of the heart to function as a pump, according to Dr. Rody Sy, president of the Philippine Lipid Society that is collaborating with the PHA in various heart-attack prevention activities.

A "massive" heart attack makes the heart weak and markedly reduces the ability of the heart muscle to pump blood. It may also adversely affect the functioning of the heart valves which are like doors leading from one chamber to the other in the heart, explains Sy.

Typical symptoms of a heart attack include unrelenting chest tightness or pressure with profuse sweating. Often this discomfort also radiates to the left shoulder, left arm and hand and sometimes to the neck or jaw. Other symptoms include nausea, vomiting, dizziness and skin that is cold to the touch.

Sometimes symptoms are not typical and include shortness of breath and fatigue. "Occasionally, one can have a 'silent' heart attack without any symptom at all," warns Sy.

Heart societies such as the PHA and the American Heart Association have issued guidelines and they recommend the following for heart attack victims:

- Recognize symptoms of heart pain as described above and realize that they may not be the same in all cases.
- Respond quickly by stopping any activity. If possible, lie down. For high-risk patients, it is always best to have a few nitroglycerine tablets ready. Place one tablet under the tongue, allowing it to melt and be absorbed. Wait for five minutes. If pain continues, take a second tablet. Wait another five minutes. If pain continues, take a third tablet and go to the nearest emergency room.
- If you are having chest pain do not drive yourself to the hospital. Your heart needs to rest and you put yourself and others in jeopardy by trying to drive. Ask someone to drive for you or call for an ambulance.
- Have family members and co-workers learn cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The PHA can be contacted for free CPR workshop and training.
- Learn how to take your pulse. Place two fingers (never the thumb) on the inside of the wrist, below the base of the thumb. When you feel the pulse, count for 1 minute, or for 15 seconds and multiply by 4.
- Always carry a list of your medications in your wallet with the name and contact number of your attending physician.

It's never a pleasant experience to have a heart attack. But one can save his own life by recognizing it immediately to prevent further damage to the heart which can even lead to sudden death in many who fail to heed the warning symptoms of a heart attack.

(Charter is the acronym for the Clinical Hypertension and Atherosclerosis Research on Therapies, Epidemiology and Risk-management. It is a nonstock, nonprofit research foundation which evaluates the impact of risk factors and interventions, particularly lifestyle modification, on atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases. It is based at the Manila Sanitarium & Hospital.)

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SaturdaySPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

PERRY. Damage control in full swing.

Matthew Perry's rehab leaves producers high and dry

BY STEVE GORMAN

LOS ANGELES—Once again, rehab has sidelined one of Hollywood's hot properties, leaving TV and movie producers wondering what to do without their star while publicists profess to the world that the show will go on.

A day after Metthew Perry, the wise-cracking Chandler Bing on the hit NBC sitcom "Friends," informed the world that he had entered an undisclosed rehabilitation facility on advice of doctors, damage control was in full swing.

Denial

Perry's spokeswoman adamantly denied a report from an online gossip columnist Tuesday that production had been halted on the actor's latest movie. Likewise, NBC and Warner Bros. Television, which producers "Friends," issued a statement wishing Perry well and insisting the show would remain in production, with original episodes continuing to air as scheduled.

Officials at the network and the studio said they could shoot around Perry, 31, on one of TV's top-rated shows for the time being, but privately they acknowledged having no long-term game plan for a protracted absence of their star.

"I think everyone is just taking it day to day right now," one insider told Reuters.

Doubt

Even NBC Entertainment President Jeff Zucker expressed a measure of doubt in a conference call with reporters, saying producers "don't expect (Perry's rehab) to have a big impact, but it's still early and we can't say beyond that."

The situation recalls the uncertainty sparked by the arrest last November of Robert Downey Jr. on drug possession charges, just three months after he had been released from prison, entered rehab and renewed his acting career with the Fox network's popular "Ally McBeal" series.

Downey, whose case is still pending, finished his original commitment to the show and ultimately returned for the remainder of the season, but his latest legal troubles cost him a role in a high-profile movie co-starring Julia Roberts and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

For now, NBC is in no immediate danger of having to air Chandler-less episodes of "Friends." Although four new segments remain to be filmed for the season, producers still have three original episodes of the series already done and ready to air. And with the February "sweeps" period ending Thursday, NBC was planning to air re-runs for much of March anyway, a network spokeswoman said.

As for Perry's latest movie, the Paramount Pictures comedy "Servicing Sara," co-starring British actress-model Elizabeth Hurley, his publicist denied a report by E! Online columnist Ted Casablanca that production had been shut down.

Spokeswoman

"I think they've got several days of scenes to do without Matthew, so they are in production," Perry spokeswoman Lisa Kasteler said.

Paramount referred queries about the report to the movie's production company, Mandalay Pictures, which did not return phone calls. *Reuters*

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ANNA in Singapore, where she brought the house down in "Rent."

Anna and Toti at Country Waffles

FRESH from her stint in Singapore where she brought the house down with her bravura performance as Maureen in "Rent," singer Anna Fegi reunites with international musician Toti Fuentes in "Anna and Toti: INTIMATE'" at Bert Nievera's Dueling Pianos, Country Waffles, Annapolis, Greenhills, at 9 p.m. on Thursday, March 15.

Oldtime favorites

Presented by SNACK Arts and Entertainment, Country Waffles, and Joey @ 92.3, "Anna and Toti: INTIMATE" will feature oldtime favorites given a new treatment, R&B, ballads, Broadway hits, and romantic tunes.

The Anna Fegi-Toti Fuentes musical collaboration started with the singer's acoustic launching series "Anna in August" two years ago, when Toti presented the neophyte from Cebu to Manila audiences.

As a musician, Toti is world-class. He has worked with Kevyn Lettau, Sergio Mendes and Brazil '88, La Toya Jackson, Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston, Natalie Cole, Stevie Wonder, Luther Vandross, Jerry Lewis and Tony Orlando, who flies Toti out for his US concerts to this day.

First encounter

Toti's first encounter with Anna two years ago is summed up by his discovery of the singer's overwhelming potential. "I hoped then that she would be given a chance, the right song, the right production and the right mix," he recalls.

Now, two years and numerous shows later, Toti is even more profuse in his praise for Anna, whom he has seen grow as an artist.

"She's so dynamic. She is very soulful, very much like a diva. She has a solid voice which sets her apart from other singers," he notes.

With more training, the musician believes, Anna will literally go places for she has the richly-textured voice that appeals to Americans.

High regard

Anna, of course, is elated over Toti's high regard of her. "For somebody who has worked with the best in the industry, Mr. Fuentes is so humble. I consider myself very lucky to be working with him," she enthuses.

In their concert, Anna and Toti bring to the fore the music they both love. "INTIMATE" is for the benefit of the CM Gil Scholarship Foundation. Call 721-0801 or 722-4422/11.

Love at twilight

IS there love for senior citizens in the twilight of their years? Paul Cox's film, "Innocence," firmly says there is. The movie is about a man and woman in their 70s who find each other again after being separated for 50 years.

In their youth in postwar Belgium, Andreas (Charles Tingwell) and Claire (Julia Blake) have a passionate love affair. But their lives subsequently take different paths and they lose touch with each other.

Many decades later, they meet in Adelaide. Paul is a widower and Claire is trapped in a loveless marriage. Despite the disapproving looks hurled their way, they decide to renew their "postponed" romance.

"Innocence" has garnered awards and special citations at filmfests in Montreal, Taormina, Toronto and St. Tropez. If you think it's your cup of cinematic tea, you can catch it at Cinema 4 at the Glorietta.

Focus on 'green architecture'

Architect and visual artist Joven Ignacio informs us that the University of the Philippines College of Architecture is organizing a national symposium on Filipino architecture with the theme, "Energy in Buildings" and with strong modules on the concept of green architecture. The symposium will be held on March 19 and 20 during Pista sa ARKI Week at the National Center for Transportation Studies at UP Diliman.

On March 19, Arch. Amade de Jesus will speak on Green Architecture after the keynote speech of Atty. BenHur Salcedo, Officer in Charge of the Dept. of Energy.

Other speakers: Fr. Jose Villarin, S.J. on "Urban Architecture and Climactic Design." Arch. Geronimo Manahan on "Biotecture: When Architecture Takes After Nature." UP Prof. Bronne Dytoc on "A Tale of Two Houses: Toward Well-Tempered Residential Designs for Climates of Quezon City and Baguio City."

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Engr. Eduardo Fernandez on "Energy and Households: What Every Filipino Needs to Know." Arch. Angelo Mañosa on "Why the Bahay Kubo Works."

On March 20, the speakers are: Arch. Estanislao Fernandez on "Architecture, Climate and Energy: Integrating Environmental Consciousness and Architecture in the Classroom." Arch. Joven Ignacio on "Design Guidance for Non-Domestic Buildings: Building Simulation Techniques." Engr. Alexander Ablaza on "The Filipino Architect'' Catalytic Role in a Market Transformation Towards Energy-Efficient Lighting."

Engr. Alejandro Sta. Ana on "Asian Development Bank's Energy Conservation Project." Engr. Francisco Mañosa on "Architecture Culture and the Environment." Call Ms. Patricia Puyat at 920-9021 for details.

The Green Architecture Movement of the United Architects of the Philippines defines the concept of green architecture: "Contrary to common belief, it is not limited to greenery, to landscaping, plants and trees.

"A response and contribution of architects to environmental sustainability, it includes the promotion of harmony with the natural features of the site; climate considerations in building design; reduced consumption of energy; accentuation of natural daylight and ventilation; use of materials that are ecological, recyclable, or derived from sustainable sources, and use of indigenous plants for landscaping."

TV treats

Sunday, March 11 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "Instinct" with Anthony Hopkins and Cuba Gooding, Jr.

At 10 p.m., on the National Geographic Channel, "The Caribbean Ring of Fire" is about scientists who mount an unprecedented expedition to the Soufiriere on the island of Montserrat, which has become active once again.

Monday, March 12 at 8 p.m., "Star Movies' "Celebrity Profile" focuses on sitcom star Alyssa Milano.

At 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Green Python" is about one of the most striking snakes in the world and why it has become an endangered species.

At 9:30 p.m. on the National Georgraphic Channel, join British travel writer Stephen Blackshall as he traverses the Negev desert on foot in the program "Walk in the Desert."

Quick cuts

In town until March 11 is ATC (A Touch of Class), the new pop sensation from Germany responsible for hits like "Around the World" and "My Heart Beats Like a Drum." Its album, "Planet Pop," is released locally by BMG Records (Pilipinas).

ATC is composed of Joe (26) from New Zealand, Sarah (25) from Australia, Tracey (23) from England and Livio (23) from Italy. Catch them at 3 p.m. on March 11 at SM Megamall, and on various Channel 7 shows.

Meanwhile, Artfarm Asia Animation and Digital Exchange offers a Flash 5 Introductory Workshop on Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m. Call 535-0285.

Artfarm also offers workshops in Character Drawing, Anime and Web Development using Dreamweaver.

GREEN ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE MEMBERS. (L to R seated) Dr. Ronnie Manahan, Arch. Mary-Ann Espina, Arch. Amado De Jesus, Arch. Ega Reformado, (L to R standing) Arch. Joven Ignacio, Arch. Stanley Fernandez, Arch. Aristeo Garcia, Arch. Armand Tantoco, Arch Robert Mirafuerte.

ATC. On Philippine promo tour.

Getting to know the real Phillip Salvador

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA

I GREW up watching old Filipino movies on "Piling-piling Pelikula," and "Regal Presents." Often I'd wind up viewing action movies like "Jaguar," "Balweg," "Gabi Na Kumander," "Pepeng Agimat," or classics like "Kisapmata," "Bona," and "Cain at Abel." Sometimes I'd be lucky and catch glossy dramas like "Sinasamba Kita," "Tinik sa Dibdib," "Kung Mahawi Man Ang Ulap," and "Langis at Tubig."

Favorite

My favorite was "Sinasamba Kita" because for the first time Vilma Santos played a manipulative, classy older sister and Phillip Salvador played a devoted martyr-boyfriend to Lorna Tolentino. In his current movie, however, "Kaaway Hanggang Hukay" (the local version of "Face-Off"), he matches wits with Edu Manzano.

Watching his movies and working for Phillip Salvador as a scriptwriter for "Codename: Verano" can give you mixed feelings. Sometimes it was good, weird and difficult. There were days when you couldn't wait to get to work, then there were other days when you had to drag yourself out of bed. Why? Because:

1. Kuya Ipe (as everyone on the set calls him) is a perfectionist.

Compromise

Sure, he respects the ideas of his writers but if he felt that a particular line wouldn't suit him, he'd have it revised. If the flow of the story is too slow, he'd ask for another draft of the script. But if what he wants will ruin the entire script, he can compromise, if you convince him that keeping it as-is would work.

He initially wasn't so keen on being the PE instructor/basketball coach in a particular episode of the show but he relented when he saw that he eventually emerged as the hero.

2. He's sentimental about his mentor, Lino Brocka.

A strong typhoon prevented the production crew from taping in a rice field in Tiaong, Quezon. So they had to turn the scarecrow into a cement statue that came to life and the taping was packed up.

Since our executive producer, July Bueta was also celebrating his birthday then, the whole crew spent the day in a small resort.

Over karaoke, *lechong manok*, *lechon* and red wine, *Kuya* Ipe recalled his days with his mentor, Lino Brocka up to the wee hours of the morning. As he shared how *direk* Lino motivated him to cry from just one eye, his voice broke. He remembers his mentor with fondness, gratitude and respect.

3. He's generous.

Whim

If a guest (read: actress/actor) didn't like the *merienda* or lunch prepared by the caterer, *Kuya* Ipe wouldn't hesitate to shell out his own money to cater to the whim of his guest. The requests would vary from sashimi and tempura to regular burgers and fries.

If there was a lull or delay in the taping and our pregnant production assistant felt nauseous, he'd treat the early birds (members of the production crew who arrived on time) to burger meals, lanzones and lychees.

4. He's a gentleman.

SALVADOR. Perfectionist.

He's the type who would open doors for his guests. He also refused to eat his meal until all the ladies (guests, production crew and extras) on the set were served first.

When an extra failed to deliver dialogue well, he'd have her replaced quietly and tactfully. She (the extra) had a thick Visayan accent and had trouble with the Tagalog lines. She was also very nervous about being pitted against Joko Diaz and *Kuya* Ipe so she mumbled and fidgetted.

Dinner break

After five takes, our director, Bong Agustin called for a dinner break. During the break, the Tagalog lines were revised to fit a man who wanted to go to Saudi to be an overseas worker, instead of the original mail-order bride.

4. He's helpful.

If the storyline was thin and "forced," *Kuya* Ipe would suggest several movies to watch to give the script more texture and nuances. Of course, sometimes you wondered if he merely wanted you to get ideas from the plots and create your "own" version. But he'd tell you outright if the script sucked or if it was right up his alley.

5. He goes for the underdog.

He has strong convictions and will stick by them against all odds. He's not a "fair-weather" type of guy. When a powerplay on the show was slowly brewing, he carefully weighed the odds and sided with the underdogs.

Different approach

Rather than protecting his own skin and "image," he opted to try a different approach and agreed to a suspense-supernatural-drama format to attract young viewers.

Instead of sheer strength and guns, he was made to use a "*sundang*/sword" to give his character a mythical appeal. At first, Kuya Ipe seemed a bit uneasy and uncomfortable with the weapon but when young kids started mimicking his movements during taping breaks, he was pleased and flattered.

10 best international filmfests spotlighted

By Nestor U. Torre

MANY film buffs are impressed when a local movie production makes it to an international film festival. Fact is, however, filmfests are literally a dime a dozen, and the festivals that *really* count make up only about five percent of the total.

New festivals

New festivals are being put up every year. At last count, there were more filmfests than days of the year!

So, before your jaw goes slack and your pulse rate shoots up when you hear of a Filipino movie being screened at an international film festival, ask around first if that particular filmfest is worth giving the time of the day to.

Better still, check with the E! channel's list of the 10 best film festivals:

At the top of the heap is the Cannes filmfest, prized for its adroit ability to mix the best and worst aspects of filmmaking and movie hucksterism. A loyalist describes the French filmfest as "both serious and wonderfully frivolous."

Paparazzi

Paparazzi are in frenetic attendance, so film people use the festival as the venue for their "most shameless efforts to get attention"—for their films or for themselves.

"There's really nothing like it," gasps another annual acolyte. "I go just for one or two days, get totally saturated, and run away! It's surreal—movie screenings start as early as 8 a.m. and parties last till dawn, so nobody gets much sleep."

"It's the best place to sell films," intones a third yearly devotee. "But, with the madness of the world's press that it attracts, starlets do *anything* to get attention. So, it can be wild, insane. But it has a great location!"

Annual celebration

Summing up: "Cannes is *the* annual celebration of film. It's whatever you make of it. It's Cannes!"

In second place is the Venice International Film Festival, one of the oldest but still among the very best filmfests. Its plus points: It's the most romantic of all of the festivals due to its being set in the uniquely lovely and atmospheric city of Venice.

But it also boasts of huge star power, attracting big names like Tom Cruise and Bratt Pitt. It has thousands of fans, big publicity—and the best food!

Some movie people also like the fact that the Venice festival has no film market, so viewers' attention is concentrated on the quality and content of the movies on view.

Biggest crowds

Next comes the filmfest in Toronto, Canada, a relative youngster at its two decades-plus of existence. It also attracts the biggest crowds—250,000 saw its offerings last year. And it screens over 300 films from 52 countries.

So, if you want to feel the pulse of the film world, Toronto is the place to be.

Its list of guest celebrities is pretty high-powered, and yet movie fans are allowed access to them. Both stars and fans love the filmfest's relaxed quality, and the fact that it's more about appreciating good movies than anything else.

Wonderful location

For filmfest number four, we go back to Europe, to the Deauville filmfest in the south of France. Plus points: big stars and filmmakers, wonderful location on the coast of Normandy, only two hours' drive from Paris, and great (seafood) cuisine.

Deauville is unique because it's a festival in France that celebrates American films. Thus, it attracts a huge Hollywood contingent (Hanks, De Niro, Robin Williams, George Clooney, etc.) each year.

Number five: the Berlin filmfest. It's one of the oldest at 50 years and also one of the most popular. Film people like the fact that it stresses its Lifetime Achievement Awards, honoring movie veterans for their exceptional contributions to the world of film.

Big boost

No. 6, Robert Redford's Sundance Film Festival, which is hailed for giving new, independent filmmakers a big boost. Redford started his "little" filmfest in 1981, and it has grown in influence and stature through the years.

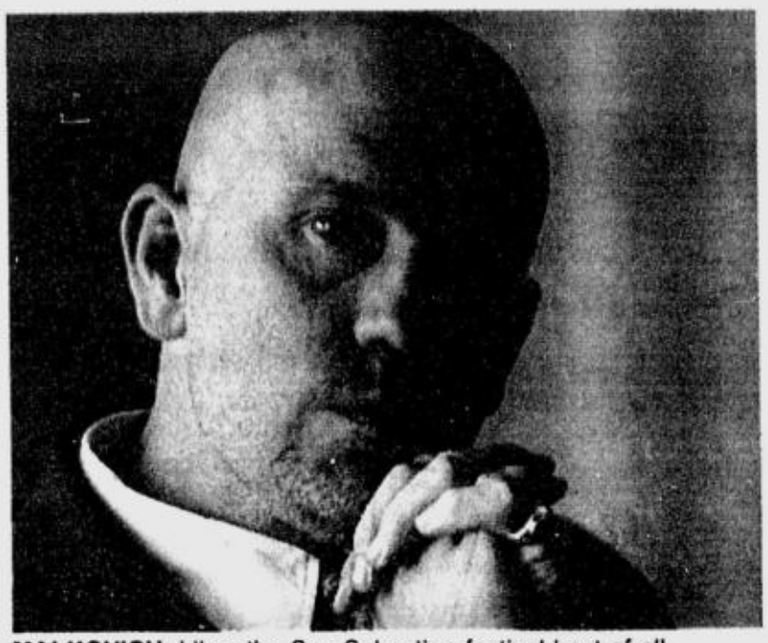
No. 7, the Slamdance filmfest, only five years old but already an alternative home to new filmmakers.

No. 8, the Telluride festival in Colorado. No awards, no paparazzi, no oneupmanship, and prized for its informal but serious-minded exchange of ideas between filmmakers and viewers. Its location gives attendees a "Rocky Mountain High."

International showcase

No. 9, the San Sebastian filmfest in Spain. Almost 50 years old, it attracts over 200,000 film buffs annually, plus 1,000 journalists. Over 200 movies are screened, and Spanish films and stars are given an international showcase. John Malkovich says it's his favorite festival.

No. 10, a tie between the new Jamerican festival and the Noosa filmfest. These relatively new and offbeat film events help young filmmakers get noticed, but the Jamerican festival also stresses old movies because, says organizer Sherilee Ralph, "We have to know from whence we came!"



MALKOVICH. Likes the San Sebastian festival best of all.

Screen Actors Guild Awards aired March 13

The Seventh Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards will be aired live from Los Angeles on March 12 at 9 a.m. on Star World, with a replay on March 13 at 12 midnight.

SAG nominees Russell Crowe ("Gladiator") and Benicio Del Toro ("Traffic") will serve as presenters joining previously announced presenters and nominees Jamie Bell ("Billy Elliot"), Juliette Binoche ("Chocolat"), and Kate Hudson ("Almost Famous").

In addition to the above celebrities, the line-up of presenters includes Annette Bening, Robert Downey, Jr., Taye Diggs, Halle Berry, Cary Elwes, Sean Hayes, Jack Lemmon, Lucy Liu, Martin Sheen and Sela Ward.

MONTAGE

Agassi at Hard Rock

Rap artist Carlos Agassi kicks off a month-long series of shows at the Hard Rock Cafe today. Agassi will perform all Saturdays of March at 9 p.m. grooving with the hits of Eminem, Shaggy, Dr. Dre and Will Smith and other rapmasters, backed up by the hip band X-Project.

Pops launches live album on 'ASAP'

Pops Fernandez launches her first live album, the live recording of her concert "Shindig" which was staged at the Ultra last year. The launch will be held tomorrow, March 11 on ABS CBN's "ASAP."

"Shindig" marked Pops' return to the concert scene. The concert features her sons Robin playing lead guitar in one segment of the show, and Ram showing his dance revo expertise.

This is the third in the series of live albums from Viva Records. The others featured Freestyle and Regine in their separate performances.

Brownbeat Allstars' album

The Brownbeat Allstars puts together the beat of reggae, the groove of ska and the energy of world and Latin jazz in their self-titled album under Neo Records. The band is made up of eight musical artists who claim that their choices in music are precisely the unifying elements that keep them together.

They are Skarlet, *aka* Myra Ruaro, formerly of Put3ska (vocals and band leader), Wam Molina (percussion), Rhanny Torres (bass), Marc Liwanag (guitar), Jay Alvar (drums), Bong Termulo (trumpets), Jon Capistrano (sax) and Freddie Samsion (sax).

Eleven of the album's tracks are original compositions, while two are remakes: the APO Hiking Society's "Mahirap Talagang Magmahal Ng Syota Ng Iba" and Juan Silos Jr.'s "Waray-Waray."

The band is now on a bar tour to promote their album. On March 16, they will be at Freedom Bar with Salatin, March 22 at the Verve Room with Third World Project, March 27 at Monks Dream and March 31 at Bistro 110 with Neighbors and Lilian.

Star Awards for Movies

The Philippine Movie Press Club ushers in the awards season when it stages the 17th PMPC Star Awards for Movies today at the UP Theater. The show will be aired on RPN-9 starting at 9 p.m.

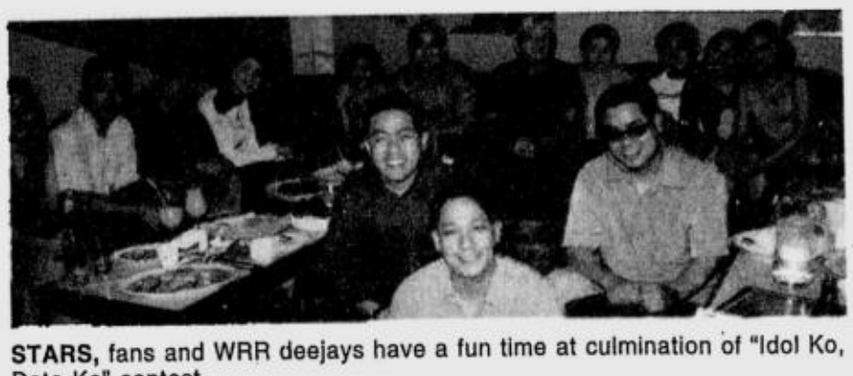
Hosting the star-studded affair are Lipa mayor Vilma Santos, Lorna Tolentino, Richard Gomez and Eric Quizon. Trivia host is Sharon Cuneta while Dina Bonevie is the anchorperson.

Singing three nominated songs are Geneva Cruz, Rica Peralejo and Piolo Pascual, while making a comeback after a long absence is Alma Moreno, who will do a special dance number. Gary Valenciano will perform in a musical number while the finale will feature Pops Fernandez. *(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)*

FERNANDEZ. Her "Shindig" concert is now an album.

Radio station makes listeners' celebrity dream dates come true

BY JOCELYN VALLE



STARS, fans and WRR deejays have a fun time at culmination of "Idol Ko, Date Ko" contest.

ON the eve of February 28, 22-year-old Regina Sanchez was tossing and turning in bed. "Two-thirty a.m. *na yata ako nakatulog*," she recalls, shaking her head. "*Tapos nagising rin ako kaagad. Sobrang* excited *talaga ako*!"

Excitement

Regina's excitement turned into tension a few hours later while undergoing a make-over at David's Salon, along with Dale Amoloza, 20, Merry Sheila Catacutan, 22, and Ivy Gonzales Catris, 18. Ivy was glad that she was able to attend morning mass that day. "*Kailangan ma*-fulfill *ko muna 'yung* duties *ko bago ako mag*-enjoy," she smiles.

Regina, Dale, Sheila and Ivy are the lucky winners of WRR's "Idol Ko, Date Ko" contest, which started a month ago. "We asked our listeners whom they wanted to have a dream date with and we got many responses," says the station's promotions and merchandising supervisor, VG Faustino.

Regina, for instance, sent in 301 entries to make sure she'd get to meet her idol, Jericho Rosales. She'd been a fan of the young actor since a year ago and is thrilled to see him everyday on Channel 2's *teleserye*, "Pangako Sa 'Yo."

Admirer

Dale wrote to WRR 117 times to let them know that he's a big admirer of Kristine Hermosa. "My ideal woman," he says of the young actress, whom he found attractive in the Sharon Cuneta-Richard Gomez blockbuster, "Minsan Lang Kita Minahal."

Ivy and Sheila feel extra fortunate that though they sent fewer entries (six and four, respectively), they were able to go out with their favorite stars. Ivy has been a supporter of Dominic Ochoa for three years, while Sheila started following the career of Carlo Muñoz since watching his ads for PLDT.

Together with WRR's staff and the winners' companions (they were allowed to bring one each), stars and fans had dinner at TGI Friday's and sang their favorite tunes at Music 21, both located on Timog ave., near the radio station's offices.

The star-struck youths swear they were on Cloud 9 being near the objects of their affection. "*Sobrang tuwa pero nahihiya rin*," says Regina, giggling. Ivy agrees: "Super excited *talaga. Hindi ko ito makakalimutan*!"

How did they find their celebrity dates?

Ivy: "Dominic is very natural, down to earth, easy to be with, very accommodating *at saka* thoughtful. *Sana ay mag*-mature *pa siya* – physically, emotionally, spiritually. *Sana matupad niya ang mga* goals *niya*. *'Yung respeto at saka* faith in God, *sana hindi mawala sa kanya*."

Doubly memorable

Sheila: "*Simple lang si* Carlo. *Hindi siya mayabang at saka tahimik lang siya. Sana, hindi siya magbago*." (The event was doubly memorable for Sheila because it was also her birthday. She got a kiss on the cheek from Carlo!)

Regina: "*Mas* down to earth *pala si* Jericho in person. Fulfilled *lahat ng* expectations *ko sa kanya*. I thank him *kasi hindi* fan *ang tingin niya sa amin*. Comfortable *siya* with us. *Sana kahit na sumikat siya, hindi siya magbago*."

Dale: "Angelic *ang* face *ni* Kristine, so *dapat mas* friendly *siya. Pero masaya pa rin ako* to meet her. Good luck *sa kanya at sana mas gumanda ang takbo ng* career *niya*."

The young stars, who are all talents of ABS-CBN, which WRR is affiliated with, are similarly upbeat about the encounter. "It's our first time to have a date with our fans," Kristine, Dominic, Jericho and Carlo chorus, unbelieving that there really are people who join contests to spend some time with their favorite stars.

Flattering

"*Na*-surprise *ako dahil meron pala akong naloloko pa*," quips Dominic, who calls his fans his friends. Ditto for Jericho and Kristine: "It really feels good. Happy *ako*," Jericho grins. "It's flattering *dahil marami pang artista na mas* popular *sa* akin," Kristine shares.

Carlo, Dominic, Kristine and Jericho are thankful for the support they've been getting from their fans. "I hope you appreciate my efforts. I promise you better entertainment," vows Carlo.

Adds Dominic: "Keep on supporting us. The best thing that I can do for you is to make you smile all the time – in times of happiness *and* loneliness."

Kristine nods, "*Sana lang* they'll understand *na* I'm busy. I read all their letters and I'll try to answer them all."

Don't fret if you're one of those WRR listeners who didn't make the cut. Faustino tells us that there will be another "Idol Ko, Date Ko" contest next year. "It will be an annual event," he avers, adding that a similar contest will also be held on their regional stations.

10 YEARS AGO

Search for 'new Vilma Santos' doesn't pan out

BY NOELANI TORRE

TEN years ago this month, TV's number one show was "Regal Presents." Trailing behind were "Okey Ka, Fairy Ko," "Tagalog Movies," "Maricel Soriano Drama Studio," "Chika, Chika, Chicks," "Mother Studio Presents," "Goin' Bananas," "Magandang Gabi, Bayan," "Kris," "Vilma!," "The Sharon Cuneta Show," "Palibhasa Lalake," "GMA Presents," "Alice," "Mel and Jay" and "Tonight with Dick and Carmi."

Drama

Viewers tastes' leaned toward drama, comedy, investigative journalism, talk shows and song and dance "variety" shows.

Sound familiar? With the exception of Mexican telenovelas and some show titles, nothing has changed much to date.

Two couples were making the news that year— Vic Sotto and Coney Reyes and Ronnie Rickets and Mariz. The former's relationship was shaky, both admitting that a rift had grown between them. They were refusing to comment to the press but "close friends of the couple" begged everyone to give the two some breathing room.

As for Ronnie and Mariz, they announced that they had no plans yet of getting married. Mariz said that she wanted to concentrate on her career first and laughed off rumors of her upcoming nuptials.

Well, we know how that turned out, don't we? The couple has been married for quite a number of years now, and neither of them is active in entertainment at present.

Lying low

Other active stars then who are lying low now were Snooky Serna and Gretchen Barretto. Snooky appeared regularly on television, even playing a maid in an episode of "Regal Golden Hour Presents.... Snooky."

REYNES. All the rage.

Vilma Santos was in her late 30s and movie producers were scouting around for "the new Vilma Santos," with two "finalists" then in the running: Alice Dixson and Janice de Belen. Although Alice already had "Alice," there was no "Janice" for Janice. Unlike Vilma, neither of them progressed to having exclamation points affixed after their names as the titles of their respective shows.

In those days, the Star for All Seasons' show was anticipating competition from "Awitawanan," a musical-variety show hosted by the Reycards and Pilita Corales.

Also competing were Roderick Paulate and Martin Nievera. Paulate won over Nievara as the PMPC TV Awards' best male TV host, but this decision did not sit well with most people, critics and viewers alike.

Critics' decision

Paulate guested in Nievera's show, "M.A.D.," to prove his worth. (He also produced a girlfriend, "proving" that he was straight in real life.) The critics' decision? The MADman won "by a fat lip."

While other stars were flickering dangerously, others shone brighter. Manilyn Reynes, then all the rage, was just about to hold another big concert, "It's a Small World... After All" (the first being "Feel na Feel") at the ULTRA.

A teenage Lea Salonga was arriving from London's "Miss Saigon" for a much-awaited homecoming concert, with Robert Seña performing with her. He was mentioned only almost footnote-like, but it was in this show that Filipinos first glimpsed the superior talent that would later land him the role of The Engineer in "Miss Saigon" and Judas Iscariot in "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Stars are known to shine steadily and for some, 10 years isn't that long a time at all. Ten years ago, Willie Nepomuceno was impersonating Joseph Estrada, Juan Ponce Enrile, and Cardinal Sin on TV. In one press conference, got up as Gringo Honasan, he stormed in and started haranguing people so convincingly that members of the foreign press took down every word he said. He pulled a similar stunt only a few months ago, this time delivering a speech as then president Joseph Estrada. The response was still the same!

Cruelty to animals

IN EUROPE, thousands of animals are being slaughtered and their bodies burned by panicked individuals who want to protect their industry from the spread of disease. Are we in any way concerned about the situation? Our president laughs and says she and her cabinet members will eat beef to show there is nothing to fear.

Casual reaction

This casual reaction had prodded me to share with you more sober reflections by Jon Wyne-Tyson in his book "Food for a Future." Please consider his points and share them with friends:

"Volumes could be produced to support the moral, compassionate and aesthetic reasons for moving from an animal economy to one based on plant life. Endless stomach-turning, mind-sickening, even heart-touching examples could be quoted of the torments that are inflicted upon fear-knowing, pain-feeling living beings—torments that we know only too well go on, but of which we do not wish to receive uncomfortable reminders...

"To quote cruelty as a basis for reform may be pardonable but it seldom gets attention.

It is more realistic, perhaps, not to concentrate for too long on the barbarities that anyone who thinks knows perfectly well are going on incessantly.

"It would be easy enough to paint in all too accurately strong colors a picture, for instance, of calves born without the will to live or even suck—many of them lucky (if that is the word) if they are allowed more than two or three days to live at all; to invite pity for the prolapsed hen dragging her guts around (if permitted the freedom to walk) until she dies of weakness or cannibalism; to stress that (to take only a single statistic) 450 million poultry are slaughtered every year in Great Britain alone; to point to the fact that pigs can literally die of fright prior to slaughter;

High walls

"To add that thousands of millions of this, that or the other specially bred animal or bird are slaughtered yearly so that a proportion of the human species can continue to eat what it wants but does not need; to suggest that we hide our slaughterhouses and other centers of animal suffering behind high walls precisely because we know only too well what is necessary if we are to indulge our greed;

"To argue at length that not only have other creatures a right to live but they have the even more critical right not to be born at all at the whim of man; to prove, in short, that in our half-baked thinking and incessant ferocity towards the countless sentient creatures that, alive, we imprison, mutilate, maim, trap, strangle, shoot, terrorize and by numerous other means mercilessly exploit day in and day out. *(To be concluded.)*

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CITIBANK

Singing star Dulce lightens up for her audience

By Andy Bais

SINGERS come and go but a few have managed to survive in the field where youth and looks are prime considerations.

Fighting form

Dulce is one such survivor – and she's obviously still in top fighting form at what she does best, judging from the offers she gets for shows here and abroad.

She has been performing for the past 23 years – well, 27 years to be exact, if we add the four years she spent as a struggling lounge singer in Cebu, starting at the tender age of 12.

What are the factors that have worked wonders for her long and "colorful" career aside from her gift of voice? "It is by God's grace that I'm still around. I guess, my attitude towards work and how I deal with my audience have also contributed a lot, " she humbly says.

Dulce shares that there have been changes in her performing style. "I can now communicate with my audience on a level where I don't want them to be burdened with so much pain. *Kasi*, before, *kapag kumakanta ako*, I cried a lot, so they ended up feeling sad also. Now, I feel lighter and I'm able to sing the songs *na hindi sila mabibingi at mapapagod*," she adds.

Entertainment

She confides that she now knows the purpose of entertainment. She values the importance of sharing something good with her audience, instead of giving them heartaches and pain.

She admits that she used to be such an insecure performer. "*Noon kasi, takot ako na magkamali sa* English *ko*. But the more I did that, the more I committed mistakes," she sighs.

She's glad that she's overcome all her fears. And it happened when she totally surrendered herself to God.

Not threatened

Dulce doesn't feel threatened by the emergence of a number of upcoming "divas." "It's not being *mayabang*, but, even during my early years in the business, *wala akong* feeling of competition. I believe there is space for everyone.

One of Dulce's dreams was to get a formal education in music but her family couldn't afford to send her to college. But she has no regrets. "God gave me the gift of music. *Kahit hindi ako tapos sa pag-aaral*, I've achieved something. *Biro mo*, I was able to sing with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, at *sa* CCP *pa*," she gushes.

For someone who only got to second year high school, Dulce can speak good English. "*Lagi kasi akong nagpe-*perform abroad. But seriously, I really worked hard on it. *Noon pa man*, I made it a habit to read anything, English magazines, newspapers, books and even billboards. And I read them aloud so somebody could correct me if I mispronounced the words," she shares.

DULCE. Survivor.

Meticulous

Dulce is also meticulous when it comes to singing Tagalog songs. "*Talagang pinag–aaralan ko ang* tenses *at* synytax. Just because I'm Visayan, it doesn't mean *na puwede na akong magkamali sa pagbigkas ko*. To be a professional artist, *dapat gawin kung ano ang tama at huwag gumawa ng milagro*! A singer should not fool his audience. He should sing live at *dapat walang* idiot board o teleprompter when he sings on TV, "she says. ***(To be concluded)***

Amanda goes to Snack's summer camp

Amanda Navasero is a precocious nine-year-old with unlimited artistic potential. Several months ago, she was awarded the top prize in an interactive arts contest sponsored by CEMEX Philippines at Glorietta.

As a young artist, she holds much promise, but when it comes to personal habits, she remains very much the young child in need of strict lessons in responsibility and discipline.

I was concerned to find out that, during a recent sleep-over "Peace Camp" in her school at St. Scholastica-Manila, she left her clothes lying about, assuming that one of the caretakers would clean up after her, just like at home.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

To address these concerns, but within a fun-filled environment coinciding with her summer vacation, Amanda will be enrolled in Snack Camp 2001, a five-day live-in camp held at the Taal Lake Yacht Club in Talisay, Batangas.

Snack is a back-to-basics camp promoting an integration of different activities directed towards young kids, ages seven to 13.

Among the more attractive aspects of the camp, which should be beneficial to Amanda, are its overall goals. Besides introducing a healthy regard for nature and the outdoors, the camp aims to develop leadership traits and a sense of independence.

Sports activities include basic Taekwondo taught by Olympian Monsour del Rosario, basic archery, and sailing lessons conducted by champion sailor Nestor Soriano. Interested? Call the Snack secretariat at 721-0801.

AMANDA, left, with her mom's dear friends, Edna Baxter, Gloria Garcia, Myrna Magdaluyo and Linda Victa-Robeniol.

Presenting some people who don't bash boy bands

By Leia Torre

COMMENTS on boy bands usually range from the mildly derogatory to the thoroughly insulting. It is a challenge to find some people who actually have something complimentary to say about these groups of young men who specialize in dancing while they're singing.

I was therefore surprised when the people I talked to admitted to admiring boy bands. Here are some of those people who do not indulge in boy band-bashing:

Reasons

"The Backstreet Boys are definitely my boy band. My reasons? Firstly, I really like Nick, the blond-haired member who looks the youngest. Secondly, I love their songs.

"One of my particular favorites is 'Anything For You,' because I feel it is the kind of song that I want a guy to sing to me. Another one is 'As Long As You Love Me,' and I like it because it gives you the assurance of a guy accepting you for what you are. And what you have the potential to become.

"Finally, being a hopeless romantic, all I want is for a guy to love me truly, madly, and deeply... isn't that the title of a song sung by another band? Well, that's another story!"

--Rania Bahjin, *Zamboanga City,*

Real talent

"I'm not really sure if they can still be classified as a boy band, but I like the Boyz II Men for a lot of reasons. Unlike other boy bands, I can see that they have real talent. Their songs make sense and they are not the mushy or overly sentimental type.

"I also admire the fact that they have good projects or collaborations with other artists, like Mariah Carey and Aaliyah. The music video of their song '*Four Seasons*' was interesting, to say the least.

"'A Song For Mama' tells me much about their emotional side, and I can relate to it, since my family is also important to me. I have seen them perform *a capella* several times and I was very impressed because their voices were so well-blended. Lastly, their music is unique and very unlike the usual boy-band music."**--Wendy Bayona,** *Dipolog*

"I like Michael Learns To Rock for the simple reason that they happened to be one of the more well-known bands when I was still in high school. I think it started out as more of an acquired taste, which happened because my classmates were playing their songs over and over, and I eventually learned to appreciate their kind of music.

"So, when I hear their songs today, I remember my high school days and I take the opportunity to reminisce while listening to their songs!"**--Bootsie Lopez,** *UP Village*

Poetic

"Boyz II Men is the only boy band I like. I find them poetic somehow, and I think their songs are about things that are more meaningful than the usual, run-of-the-mill varieties. The melodies that accompany the lyrics are similarly eloquent..

"Their 'Song For Mama' made an impact on me when I heard them perform it on one episode of "Oprah" while their respective mothers were there. I also found it touching that they took the trouble to compose and dedicate a song, 'One Sweet Day,' to one of their friends who died.

"But I think the primary reason I admire them is because they are not afraid to be different from other boy bands."**--Bam Olavides,** *Tandang Sora*

"I greatly admire the music and performing style of N'Sync. I find them very talented in both singing and dancing. I watched their performance at the Grammy Awards with Christopher Cross, and I thought it was superb.

"I appreciated it that they sang live. They are natural performers, and they do not rely on face value in order to maintain their status in the music industry."**--Karl Santos,** *Pangasinan*

More talented

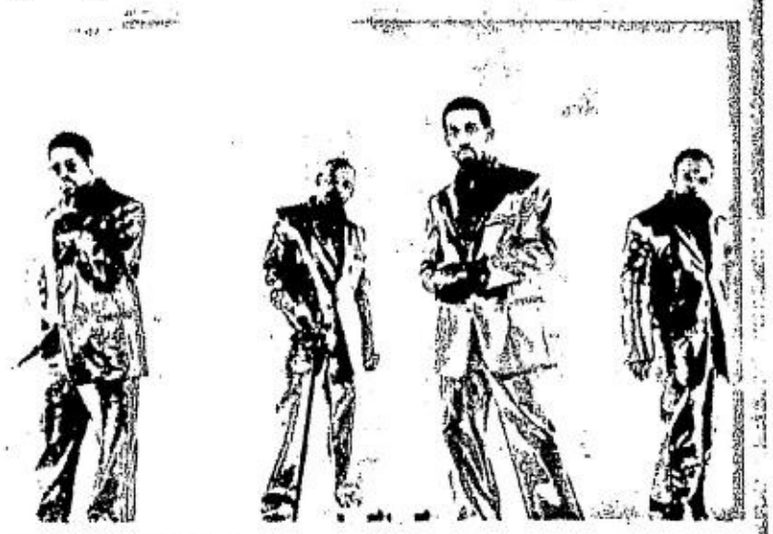
"Of course my favorite boy band is the one referred to by a lot of people as "Boy Band Gods." Although they are still technically classified as a boy band, Boyz II Men are far better and more talented than all the other boy band talents combined.

"I applaud the way their sound and songs stand out from those of the other boy bands. They cannot be mistaken for another band, and that is one of the things I like most about them."**--Stanley de la Cruz,** *Cotabato*

"Boyzone. Am I going to miss them! The group parted and the members went their own ways. Although Ronan and Stephen, the more prominent members of the group, already have their own albums, I still like their music as a group better.

"I really enjoy their songs. "All That I Need" was my first favorite, and the rest of the songs released after that subsequently became my favorites also. Their songs have good lyrics, and they suit my taste in music. The lyrics are very poetic and meaningful.

"I think their album 'Where We Belong' is simply the best, as the sequencing of the songs is really good, as well as the mix. I will really miss the pleasure of listening to new songs from them every now and then."**--Arvin Santos,** *Cubao*



BOYZ II MEN. Their songs make sense.

LVN MUSEUM. More than two decades of film legacy.

Film history comes to life at the LVN Museum

BY ROYCE ERVAS AMBROCIO

IN difficult times such as what our country is facing now, it is comforting that there are still a few places where a Filipino can be proud of his patrimony.

Sprawling lot

Nestled on the sprawling lot of LVN studios on P. Tuazon blvd. in Quezon City is the LVN Museum. Once inside the compound, the visitor has to inform the people at the front desk at the administration building of his purpose, or he can call beforehand and have his name registered so the security guard can let him through. There is an entrance fee of P30.

The museum is still housed in a one-storey building, but don't be fooled because there is nothing simple about the facade or the front lawn. Both are colorfully decorated with bayonets, shields, coat of arms and old lighting equipment. It's a prelude to what a visitor can expect to see inside the museum: more than two decades of film legacy!

Before I went to the museum, I read up on the history of LVN from a masteral dissertation of a university professor. I learned that the studio was established in 1938 shortly before the Second World War. The acronym LVN was taken from the first letter of the last names of its partners: Doña Narcisa Buencamino de Leon, Carmen Villongco and Eleuterio Navoa Sr.

Facilities

It was closed down during the war and opened again after the Liberation until 1961, when it finally stopped producing movies. LVN Studios' facilities were revitalized to cater to post-production needs of its clients.

The museum is packed with surprises. I call them that because from what I've learned from my edifying interview with its curator and founder, Bernard Fernandez, the pieces on display were salvaged from a neglected state in storage. A museum was never in the plan of LVN.

Fernandez said that the museum was created by a mere stroke of fate, with a little initiative from him. He recalled seeing boxes and boxes of old costumes and props stacked in a bodega more than 10 years ago. Then in 1989, he had a vacant lot—where old and rotting cars were piled up—leveled down and a sort of open structure was erected. He employed a hired hand and moved the salvaged boxes to that site.

Permanent display

It was during his birthday celebration that the idea of a permanent display was conceived. He was talking to the De Leons, and they recognized his effort and ordered the release of some money to begin the construction of a building to house the old costumes and props.

Having worked in the wardrobe department of LVN Studios since 1950, Fernandez has preserved the costumes quite remarkably. The colors are still bright, the lines distinct and the designs accurate. It's a shame though that only a few are modeled by mannequins, such as costumes worn by Nida, Delia, Charito Solis and Manuel Conde.

Not equipped with modern means of preserving fabrics, Fernandez opts for naphthalene or mothballs, with an occasional sunning to dry out residual moisture and the fungi growth that accumulates. The air-conditioning helps to stabilize the temperature, the fluctuation of which can easily ruin delicate fabrics.

Photographs

Aside from the costumes ranging from flamboyant evening gowns and ornate armored suits, the museum also boasts of photographs of the studio's stars, like Mila del Sol and Lou Salvador Jr., which line the walls. More photographs of directors and those showcasing scenes from movies fill up the nooks and crannies of the place, along with a few old movie posters here and there. Props like street lamps, torches, spears, swords, shields, rifles and radios are also displayed. There is even a director's chair which, according to the label, was Mike de Leon's.

In the far end of the museum are old and bulky cameras which, from their size, must have been operated by two men a piece. At the opposite end is some sort of shrine which has come to look like it because of the way the statue of Pugo, a comedy character actor, is mounted at its center.

Fernandez also showed me the old Max Factor makeup kits which include a formula they used for fake blood which was more realistic than what makeup artists use today. There are also worn-out shoes and boots and rusty military insignias. Encased in a glass cabinet are Charito Solis' elaborate jewelry which she used in her movies. They were personally delivered by Charito's sister after the actress' death. ***(To be concluded)***

The museum is still housed in a one-storey building, but don't be fooled because there is nothing simple about the facade or the front lawn. Both are colorfully decorated with bayonets, shields, coat of arms and old lighting equipment

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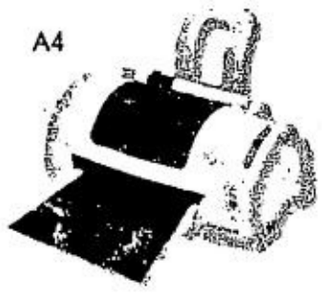
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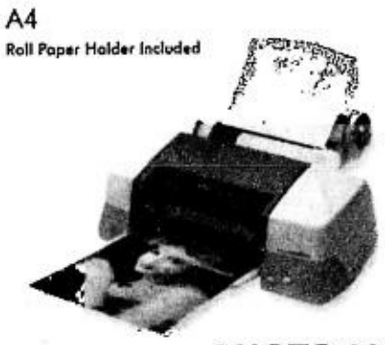
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SaturdaySPECIAL

The pain and pleasure of being Robin Padilla

PADILLA. Wants to become a more versatile actor.

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

ACTION heroes are usually portrayed on the big screen as supermen, impervious to pain, experts at dodging bullets and forever young. In real life, however, action stars are human, too. Take Robin Padilla, star of the latest Star Cinema's offering "Oops, Teka Lang...Diskarte Ko 'To!" Robin admits that he finds it harder to do stunts in his movies today: "*Tumatanda na talaga ako. Nung araw, pag tumalon ako, paggising ko sa susunod na umaga, wala akong maramdaman. Ngayon, pag tumalon ako, pag-gising ko, sumasakit ang* muscles *ko*," he groans.

Macho image

We found this revelation refreshing because usually, actors want to project a macho image and will not admit they're getting old. Robin is confident enough to admit that he is a mere mortal. That doesn't mean that he has slowed down on the more difficult stunts. When the scene calls for it, Robin will not hesitate to risk bodily harm just so the audience will have a good time. Of course, there are doubles who can do the job but, as much as possible, Robin wants to do his own stunts. He feels he owes it to his fans.

When he made his first movie after staying behind bars for three years, he made sure his project involved a lot of impressive stunts. He wanted to let everybody know that he was back in a big way.

Today, though, he tries to avoid routines involving fire because he has suffered serious burn injuries. In terms of risk, he considers doing a stunt in a careening vehicle safer than jumping

THE PAIN/ P. D2

The action star is confident enough to admit that he's a mere mortal

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SNEAK PREVIEW

'The Mexican' does the unexpected

BY BOB TOURTELLOTTE

LOS ANGELES—It took more like 15 years of fame rather than the proverbial 15 minutes to put Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts together in a film, but the two finally appear in "The Mexican," which opened last week.

Errand boy

"The Mexican" stars Pitt and Roberts as two lovers whose relationship hits the skids when Pitt's character, a reluctant errand boy for the mob, takes to the road to find an antique pistol known as "The Mexican."

While the movie centers on the romance between Pitt's Jerry and Roberts' Samantha, the two rarely appear together onscreen, which could upset movie fans who expect to see the sex symbols' onscreen chemistry. But it is that quality of "The Mexican"—doing the unexpected—that led both actors to get involved.

"I'm sure Hollywood has constructed many movies that were Brad and Julia vehicles ... That didn't happen here," said director Gore Verbinski.

Indeed, in recent interviews Pitt and Roberts said throughout careers that span back to the mid-1980's, they have been pitched ideas to star together in many movies. But Pitt said they all "seemed so obvious."

Different

"This just felt right," he said. "It was so different."

Jerry is something of a lovable loser. Several years ago, he ran into the car of a Los Angeles mob boss and when the police came to investigate, they found a body in the trunk of the boss's car. The boss went to jail and Jerry went to work — for the boss, to pay him back.

As "The Mexican" begins, Jerry has just performed his last delivery for the boss's henchmen, but he screwed up the job and now has to do one more — travel to a small town in rural Mexico and retrieve an antique pistol — or he winds up dead.

Waitress

Jerry's continued employment angers Samantha because he has promised her that they will move to Las Vegas where she wants to get a job as a waitress. She has invested long hours in a lot of self-help books and relationship therapy to understand their love, and she doesn't want Jerry to walk out on it now.

But she is as determined to start a new life as Jerry is to save his, so as he heads to Mexico, she takes off for Vegas.

Jerry locates the gun fairly quickly, but he runs into problems when he learns there are many others who want to get their hands on it. One of those people has even sent a hit man (James Gandolfini) to kidnap Samantha and use her as leverage to retrieve the pistol.

The movie develops as a series of misadventures in which Jerry loses, then regains, "The Mexican" over the course of several days while learning about a curse ill-fated lovers put on the pistol way back in the the 19th century. Thousands of miles away, meanwhile, Samantha is exploring the nature of love and romance with her hitman/kidnapper.

"The story is just so different," said Verbinski. "You can't just put it in a box ... and it isn't a typical star vehicle."

Reuters

ROBERTS AND PITT. Co-star for the first time in Gore Verbinski's film.

Political jingles ring the voting public's bells

BY VERON DIONISIO

ELECTIONS in the Philippines are never complete without jingles. Musically-inclined as we are, it is hard to imagine election campaigns without these powerful tools in creating awareness among voters.

Familiar tunes

At the height of every election year, voters are fed with these familiar tunes, ceaselessly playing to affect the people's subconscious, subliminally influencing voter behavior. It doesn't matter whether these jingles maintain a certain standard in music or not; the more practical consideration is their effectiveness in attracting voters and their ability to create a positive recall.

Vehnee Saturno believes that it doesn't matter whether he believes in the candidate or not.

Bottom line

"Of course, it really helps if you believe in the candidates' potentials because it makes writing easier. But on the whole, the bottom line is: can you sell them?"

Vehnee wrote all the election jingles used by Joey Marquez in his campaign for vice-mayor and later as mayor of Parañaque. Vehnee grins: "He considers them his lucky charms."

For the coming elections, Vehnee has written one for Obet Pagdanganan.

Before writing a jingle for a candidate, Vehnee requests for the candidate's political platform, a list of his/her achievements, personality tag line or political slogan, and what candidate's public relations people want to focus during the campaign.

"It's not really difficult to do," says Vehnee. 'The good part of it is that it pays five times better."

Angelo Villegas, last year's Metropop's grand prize winner, claims that the hardest aspect of writing election jingles is getting the so-called "hook" of the song. "It's a phrase, the catchy part of the song that has to be immediately implanted in the people's subconscious. You can't help but recall it," he says. "Once you get hold of it, the rest is easy."

Angelo shares Vehnee's views: "To be honest, I'm not concerned about whether the candidate is someone I'm inclined to vote for or not," he comments.

Infomercial

What about moral responsibility? Isn't he afraid that he might be endorsing someone who's unfit for public office? "Perhaps," replies Angelo. "But the point is, writing a jingle is like writing an infomercial that describes the achievements of a certain candidate. And I believe that, in the end, the voters still decide whom to vote for.

For Angelo, a good election jingle should attract attention in the fastest possible time, allowing a relaxed musical experience for the listeners. "In other words, the experience should be as painless as possible. There should be no effort at all in listening to the melody."

(To be concluded)

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Bernard Palanca enjoys being an actor and musician

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA & RICKY T. GALLARDO

WE HEARD Bisqit Factory, Bernard Palanca's band, play at Hard Rock a few months back and we grinned as the *collegialas* near us giggled and shrieked in delight as Bernard sang their original song, "Govinda."

Bernard looked cool and comfortable onstage as the group sang pop-rock, new-age alternative songs. Does Bernard prefer being in a band to acting?

"Being in a band and acting are two different worlds. I enjoy both because doing them fulfills my different needs. I'm an intense person, I don't beat around the bush, I express what I feel. I'm very vocal!" Bernard reveals.

Bernard cites Jim Morrisson and Jimi Hendrix as his musical influences. He learned how to play the guitar when he was only 11. He composes poetry and songs in the bathroom on toilet paper. He feels that the inspiration to write can strike anytime so he has to be prepared!

And his co-star in "Sa Huling Paghihintay," Rica Peralejo, gave him the inspiration to write "Ilaw" for her. He spent a whole day on the lyrics, and the music came two days after.

Aside from the song, Bernard gave Rica a Schnauzer puppy for her birthday. His actions seem to imply that he wants Rica to be more than a friend, but he refuses to put a label on their relationship.

"I just felt like writing a song for her. I gave her a puppy because it has life. She can take care of it and it's something that she wants for her birthday. I don't make *ligaw*, I just allow things to happen. I have special feelings for her but I'd like to go through the whole thing the spontaneous way," Bernard clarifies.

Bernard is very passionate about music, poetry and literature. He wants to have his own recording company someday. But for now, jamming with Parokya ni Edgar, Wolfgang, the Juan dela Cruz band, Pepe Smith, Joey Ayala and Mike Hanopol will suffice.

His family isn't a bit disappointed that he prefers acting and being in a band to the corporate world. "My *Lolo* (Armando Goyena) was the happiest man in he world when I joined show business. He wanted to see at least one of his children or grandchildren follow in his footsteps.

"I can't see myself wearing a tie and working in a nine-to-five job. I'm interested in film and music. I don't like cheesy love songs and boy bands, I'm more into old school jazz and classic rock," Bernard shares.

Vhong Navarro makes an effective sidekick

Redford White has a deadpan expression when he delivers his punchlines but Vhong Navarro delivers his jokes with his whole body in the sitcom, "P'wedeng P'wede Na." Critics complain that Vhong has a tendency to imitate Jim Carrey when he does his comedy routines but Vhong claims that he acts like Jim because he idolizes him.

"I started acting like Jim Carrey on 'Super Laff-In.' *Pareho kaming dancer. Pero simula ngayon, iiwasan ko nang gumaya sa kanya.* I will try to have my own comic style," Vhong vows.

Like most comedians, Vhong easily attracts women. But he dispels rumors that he's a playboy and a heartbreaker. The women he's been linked to are "just friends." Since he's a single parent to his son, Isaiah, he takes his work seriously.

He attracted a lot of attention in "Spirit Warriors" so we expected him to get bigger roles. But he prefers to be the sidekick of Robin Padilla in "Ooops Teka Lang... Diskarte Ko Ito!"

"*Tagabuhat ako ng* mobile speakers *sa isang* mobile disco, *P15 lang ang bayad. Nagsimula akong* dancer. *Kahit anong* role *tatanggapin ko, ayokong mamili,*" Vhong says.

Mystica finally makes her mark

Mystica continues to unravel her mystery as an entertainer with every project she ventures into. After setting the trend for the new wave of double meaning songs via her debut album under Rock Records, she's launched her fitting follow-up CD, "Walang Takip."

By now, everyone knows where she came from, what she's been through and the many sexy dances she had to perform in cold, far-away countries just to make ends meet. But the sun has finally shone on her and she's reaping the fruits of her (hard) labor.

"*Basta may tiyaga, may nilaga, may lechon,* may steak *at kung anu-ano pa,*" she kids, then adds, "Seriously speaking, as along as you set your mind to something and do your best to achieve your dreams, you'll get to where you want to go."

She hopes that her new album, produced by Nonoy Tan for Rock Records, will bring more blessings for her and her family. "They're my inspiration, especially my only child, that's why I'm working hard. I want my family to have the best life possible."

Jeremie takes a shot at beauty tilt

Singer Jeremie Antiporda is one of the 26 girls vying for the Binibining Pilipinas titles at stake tonight at the Araneta Coliseum (the show will be telecast on Channel 7). We saw her recently and she told us that she's ready to give it her best shot.

We reckon that Antiporda has got what it takes to shine: the right attitude,a cheerful personality, a whistle-bait figure at 35-24-35 complementing her 5"8 frame, and loads of common sense.

BERNARD/P. D4

ANTIPORDA. Right attitude.

The pain . . . (From page D1)

from a tall building. There are less chances for injuries in a vehicle because one is strapped to the seat.

In "Oops, Teka Lang," Robin plays a disgruntled ex-cop who helps Claudine locate her kidnapped sister. The actress plays a young novice, so don't expect the torrid kissing scenes present in many of Robin's starrers. The love scenes are tender enough so the community of nuns will not object. "*Sayang*," jokes Robin. "After 'Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw,' *na*-addict *na ako sa* kissing scenes.

(There's been some controversy, however, over the song, "Oops Teka Lang" by Ara Mina, which the MTRCB has found too adult to be used in a trailer which is meant for general audiences.)

Rough scenes

Claudine had to go through many physically-demanding scenes for this movie, like hanging upside down from a tree, getting trapped in quicksand and doing fight routines. That's certainly different from the drama scenes she's known for in the many soaps she's done for ABS-CBN. This is her first action role, although she remembers doing an action movie when she was only 14 years old.

Robin can hold his own in dramas, although he takes his hat off to fellow action star Cesar Montano, whom he praises for his performances in "Rizal" and "Muro Ami." He turned down an offer to portray Andres Bonifacio because he is very conscious about what people might say.

"*Baka sabihin ng iba, bakit ako magiging bayani sa pelikula, e* ex-convict *naman ako*," says Robin. But he's willing to do period dramas, as long as they're based on fictional events.

Speaking of Cesar, we asked Robin to comment on the observation that the star of "Rizal" rose to the top because Robin was in jail for a long time. Robin disagreed, saying Cesar was ahead of him. He was always impressed by Cesar's dramatic prowess. He even remembers watching Cesar in a Shakespearean play at UP. Thus, when asked how different Cesar was from him, he cited the actor's acting talent, while Robin is better known for doing exciting stunts.

Setback

His stint at Muntinlupa was a setback for Robin, who was afraid people would no longer remember him when he got out. After all, his sentence was for 10 or more years so there was a strong possibility he would not matter anymore in the movie industry. But after serving three years, he was released because of a law that was passed, courtesy of Senator Ramon Revilla, lowering the penalty for illegal possession of firearms.

Today, Robin need not worry that people have forgotten him. Despite the presence of other action stars, his movies attract large audiences. What's ironic is that his biggest box office hit so far is a non-action movie, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" where he sported a clean-cut look and even sang with co-star Regine Velasquez. We understand that Robin did not bring any costumes to his shooting because none of his outfits would fit his role, so the studio had to provide him with all of his wardrobe requirements.

Surprised

Robin admits that he was surprised at the success of "Kailangan." However, he says that even in his action movies, it is not enough to kick butt. There should be other elements like comedy and romance to make a film more entertaining. That's what he hopes his latest movie will do, to prove that, more than just an action star, he is also a versatile actor.

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Rica Peralejo: No longer TV's 'little girl'

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

THE PICTURES say it all: Rica Peralejo, ABS-CBN's little girl and wholesome teenybopper is now a woman. Where before she indulged in sugar and spice and everything nice, this time she's concentrating on sizzling up her image with roles that call for her to bare more skin with every movie she makes.

Teaser

Her first "adult" movie with Victor Neri, ''Ex-Con,'' was just a teaser for her vampy character in "Balahibong Pusa" where she bares her impressive assets and goes to bed with Jay Manalo as if she's been doing it all her life.

In her latest movie, "Sa Huling Paghihintay," Rica bares some more skin and has an underwater nude scene with co-star Bernard Palanca *a la* "Blue Lagoon." Compared to her flirty character in "Balahibong Pusa," her latest role is more romantic. The important thing is that this is her first lead role in her new ``incarnation."

Rica managed to see "Balahibo" when it was showing in Cebu. Her reaction: "*Nakakailang siya, kasi* first time. *Tapos ang laki-laki pa ng lahat.*" Of course, she was referring to the big screen, but we wondered if she was also being naughty and was referring to something else.

Rica held on to her sister while the delicate scenes were being shown. "*Nailang talaga ago*," she continued, "but not to the point that I cried. After watching the whole movie, I felt proud of what I did. I was not ashamed."

Maturing process

Although going bold was a major part of her maturing process, Rica says she has also changed in other ways. "As an actress, the last seven years have been like school to me. I had to learn everything, using my eyes, bringing up my emotion, sharing it with the people. *Sabi ko nga*, it was worth it, *lahat ng pinagdaanan kong kahirapan nung* seven years.. *Parang ngayon ko nagagamit lahat.* I've matured a lot because I've learned more about my craft."

Is she less "*kikay*" than before?

"I'm still *kikay*," says Rica. " But now, serious *na ako* when it comes to my job. *Kasi dati*, it was all play. *Ngayon*, I'm thinking maybe I can do this *na*. I can use my movies for this. Stuff you don't think about when you're still young. I've become more future-oriented."

PERALEJO THEN AND NOW. The teenybooper has grown up.

She also feels more independent now. "*Kahit walang tulog*, I'm the one who fixes my things and calls people about what I need for the movie," she proudly states.

Her mom still accompanies her to all her shootings and public events, but Rica wants that to change. "I don't want her to make *bantay* all the time. She's also not that young anymore and I can take care of myself. It's not that I don't need her, I always make her feel needed."

Heartaches

She has also been able to handle heartaches well. "Very thankful *ako* for whatever happened to me. The two break-ups that I had really hurt me a lot but I learned so much. I can take care of myself now. I'm happy the way it is. I don't need anyone to make me happy."

Rica turned 20 on March 7. When we interviewed her last week, she was asked what her birtdhay wish was. "*Tuloy-tuloy lang* what's happening to me right now. *Sa buong buhay ko*, this is my happiest moment. *Nasa* peak *ako*. Everything's falling into place for me. It's almost perfect. I just want it to stay that way."

Many are saying that Viva got Rica to replace sex star Joyce Jimenez, who did not renew her contract with Viva and has gone freelance. So, is she the new "Pantasya ng Bayan"?

"It's very flattering, but that's not the way I want to be called. I got into this because I love the craft, not because I wanted to be a star. For me, I love the fact that I can explore my talents and express myself."

Pressure

With her newfound status, Rica agrees that there is a lot of pressure on her to top what she did in her last movie. "It's hard to keep it this way all the time, to be on top for a long time and keep the offers coming. I know someday I'll wake up to find out, 'Hey, I'm not that hot anymore!' So, I'm making the most of it."

Of course, some of her fans are disappointed at her change of image. Rica reasons out that "It's not their life. In the end, *ako pa rin ang magsasabi*, '*O, happy ba ako nung mga panahon na ito? Meron ba akong nagawa na mali?* I went into this not by accident. *Pinagusapan naming mabuti*, and I said yes. It was a

Keanu, Charlize make 'Sweet' music again

NELSON Moss (Keanu Reeves) and Sara Deever (Charlize Theron) have nothing in common. She's a charming spirit who brings out the best in men. He's a workaholic executive whose only intimate relationship is with the bottom line...until he meets Sara.

Unconventional courtship

Intrigued by each other, but not quite ready to commit, they settle on a rather unconventional courtship: one month trial, after which they'll go their separate ways. No expectations. -No pressure. No strings . attached.

REEVES AND THERON. Nothing in common.

What neither of them counts on is falling in love.

The partnership that ignited the screen in "The Devil's Advocate" will make audiences swoon again as Keanu Reeves and Charlize Theron reunite for Warner Bros.' hit romantic-drama "Sweet November." Directed by Pat O'Connor ("Circle of Friends"), the film also stars Jason Isaacs ("The Patriot") and Greg Germann ("Ally McBeal").

In the film, advertising executive Nelson Moss is a self-absorbed and emotionally isolated man focused on his future, running from his past, and oblivious to the present.

"He grew up poor, an only child whose parents are dead," says Keanu Reeves, who made an indelible screen persona as Neo in the Oscar-winning "The Matrix." "My take on him is that his father sold door-to-door and wasn't very good at it. Subconsciously, Nelson is trying to become the successful version of his father. But in manifesting that, he has shut off the part of himself that allows him to feel."

Until the day, he meets Sara, a charming, fearless woman whose lust for life disrupts Neison's safe, single-minded drive. "She is in touch and in tune with what's going on around her," says Charlize Theron, who garnered critical praise for her role in the Academy Award-nominated drama "The Cider House Rules."

Priority

"Sara really knows what she wants out of life and how to live it to the fullest, and she has made it a priority to share that knowledge with other people. She's not scared to get close and intimate with strangers."

Director Pat O'Connor explains, "We all go around with our little games and our camouflage, but Sara is smart and sees through the wails people build around themselves. And she has a hunch about Nelson."

Sara senses the vulnerable and wounded aspects of Nelson's character. "There's still a part of Nelson that is alive and Sara recognizes that," says Reeves.

A life made famous

BY CHRIS SCHLEGEL

CAMERON Crowe has always looked a little young for his age, but his achievements have consistently managed to outstrip whatever birthday he happens to be celebrating.

Rock hedonists

When he was 16, Crowe was traveling around the country with rock hedonists like Led Zeppelin and producing cover stories for "Rolling *Stone*."

When he needed a new challenge at the ripe age of 22, he went undercover at a San Diego high school and wrote "Fast Times at Ridgemont High."

Now, at 43; and after writing and directing acclaimed movies like "Say Anything" and "Jerry Maguire," Crowe revisits his youth with his new film, "Almost Famous."

The movie follows a wide-eyed, 15-year-old rock fan who wangles an assignment from *Rolling Stone* to go on the road with a fictional band named Stillwater.

Along the way, he learns about sex, drugs and rock n' roll and discovers that getting too close to your subjects can have its consequences. Q and A:

Does it take a certain amount of *healthy* self-esteem to make a movie about yourself?

Crowe: In other words, am I an egomaniac? I hope not. I've been writing this movie since 1988, arid the only way it worked was to make it personal.

More purposeful

When it got more personal, it got more purposeful. Earlier versions were funnier and more like "Spinal Tap." But then, those movies are the peak, and we don't need an imitator.

So, you got personal. Was that hard?

It was a lot more embarrassing and scary than I anticipated. I guess I could have turned back at a couple of points, but I didn't. It's a little different if somebody says about "Jerry Maguire," "Oh, I'm not really into sports. I didn't care for it." That's different from "I'm not really into your life. It bored me."

In other words, you want people to like you.

What writer doesn't? Not to be too sensitive about it, but all writers have to have a certain degree of sensitivity to write. I felt that had to put on a protective covering to do a movie like this, but I found you can't wear that protective covering because then the movie becomes farce. So, I ended up feeling everything a little too much while I was making it. And I still do.

Did you get the feeling people were thinking this movie was a $60 million therapy session to you?

Oh, yeah. Crew members, people from the studio are immediately going to say, "Well, it's about him... Of course, he's going to be fragile. Of course, he's going to work longer on the edit."

Prejudice

What would be the version of prejudice that would involve autobiographical filmmaking?

It's the prejudice that happens when everybody thinks you're a little more of a skinless newt because it's a personal movie. And there's a lot of truth to that.

The movie is kind of a tribute to your mother, as well as to your sister, who turned you on to rock.

They are my heroines. I hope this movie brings them together a little bit, because there were about 10 years when they weren't talking. My loom was a little less flexible when she brought up my sister, and my sister carried a little bit of a heavy load. When I was growing up, my mom chilled out.

She must have. She let you go on tour across the country with bands like the Allman Brothers and Led Zeppelin, groups that weren't exactly known as pillars of upright behavior.

She trusted me a lot. But I think she knew that for me, it was all about the music. And you see that in the movie. Not to be Pollyanna about it, but the times I remember were about the music, not the traditional rock decadence.

That's why the women following the band in the movie aren't the groupies with needles hanging out of their arms. They're muses. I wanted to show that time in the past when you sort of had a glorious but passionate naivete.

It's remarkable you did all this as a teenager. Did anyone ever intimidate you?

Dylan. It was 1978, and I was so intimidated by the fact that I was finally able to interview Bob Dylan that I don't think I was able to ask good questions.

Great opportunity

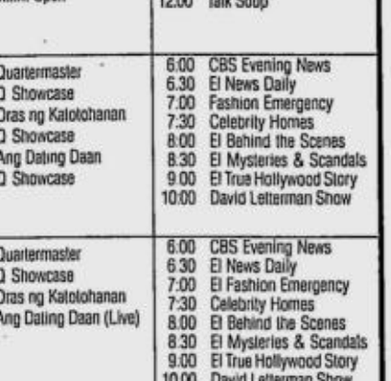
And it was a great opportunity. He had just gone to the store and bought all these punk records by people like the Sex Pistols, and he was sitting there on the bed looking at the albums while I interviewed him. How I couldn't turn that into a piece worth publishing I'll never know.

DIRECTOR Cameron Crowe (right) with the actors who play his alter egos.

Bernard . . . (From page D2)

Antiporda is not new to tough competitions, although its her first time to be part of a national beauty pageant. Some years ago, she was chosen as a Musicmate Girl, where talent and personality were the two factors considered. This achievement opened doors for her to be part of the music industry, even allowing her to record an album with BMG Pilipinas.

Antiporda is aware that beauty tilts are not without controversies, and that added pressure is put on candidates who are 'celebrities. "But, I'd like to keep a positive attitude and hopefully emerge victorious as well," she smiles.



PALANCA. A vocal person.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MARCH 10 – 16

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
SUN	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 Loren / "F" 12:00 The Weekend News,	6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 SOF 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Road to Sydney 10:15 Fashion Watch 10:45 Olympic Primer 11:15 National Network News 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Princess Tenko 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Easy Money 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Eezy Dancing Non-Stop 10:00 Saturday Night Movies 12:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:30 GMA's BEST *Bb Pilipinas 2001* 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 SaBayan 7:00 Conan 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class 11:30 Late Night Movie	5:30 H2K 7:00 Viva Premiere Night 9:00 Kagat sa Dilim 10:00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Night Lines	6:30 Journey of Allen Strange 7:00 Two of a Kind 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Party of Five 9:30 Studio 23 *Remains of the Day* 12:00 MTV	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 El Special 8:00 El Special 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show 12:00 Wild On 1:00 Search Party
MON	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Richard Loves Lucy 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:00 The Weekend News 11:30 Oh No, It's Johnny	6:00 Uncut 6:30 Ugat 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Primetime Specials 10:00 National Network News 10:30 Business & Leisure 11:00 Sultada 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	5:00 Tarzan 6:00 Savage Dragon 6:30 Janperson 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Sunday Night Specials 11:00 Johnny Walker Powerplay 11:30 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Bitoy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 The 700 Club	5:30 Hollywood Squares 6:00 Compañero y Compañera 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Kids Say the Darndest Things 8:30 Stark Raving Mad 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report 11:30 Estrada Presidency	4:00 PBA 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 In His Steps 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Dawson's Creek Revisited 8:00 The Nanny 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 Talk Soup 6:30 CBS Evening News 7:00 60 Minutes (CBS) 8:00 El Special 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 11:00 Celebrity Profile 12:00 Talk Soup
TUES	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:00 Judy Ann Drama Special 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Correspondents 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Pilipino Box-Office 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Job Network/Fora Medica 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Ginlong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Macron 1 7:30 Freakazoid 8:00 By Request 9:00 Spy Games 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Arlyn dela Cruz on Special Assignment 11:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters *Anting-Anting* 9:30 Kiss Muna 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Michael Hayes 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Honasan Reports	7:00 Blow By Blow 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 10:30 Super Bouts 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Amerika Atbp.	6:00 MTV Dives 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Making the Band 8:00 Time of Your Life 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Nightman 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 El Behind the Scenes 8:30 El Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show
WED	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Oka Tokat 8:30 Regal Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:30 Cartoon Hour 7:00 Thief Takers 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Business Insight 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Ginlong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 G.I. Joe 7:30 Superman (Animated) 8:00 Hercules 9:00 That '70s Show 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Kontak 5 11:30 F/X The Series 12:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Bubble Gum Crisis 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Jay Sonza's Tapatan 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Saklolo Abogado 7:00 DMZ TV 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Now Showing 11:00 Ronda Trese	6:00 MTV Most Wanted 7:00 Greed 7:30 Popular 8:30 Angel 9:30 Grapevine 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Nightman 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 El Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 El Behind the Scenes 8:30 El Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show
THURS	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:00 Kalapat, Fred Lim 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 HBO Boxing 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Tapatan Walang Atrasan 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Nature Trip 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Ginlong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sabrina 7:30 Suddenly Susan 8:00 Frasier 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Musika Atbp. 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:00 GMA Drama Studio Presents 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Imbestigador 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Roswell 9:00 It's A Miracle 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo'y Langit	5:00 PBA 10:00 Subic Bay 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	7:00 Fantasy Island 8:00 Survivor 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 The Explorer 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 El Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 El Behind the Scenes 8:30 El Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show
FRI	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Home Along da Riles 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Assignment 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Olympic Program 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Ginlong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:30 New York Undercover Year 2 12:00 The Big News	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Bubble Gum Crisis 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 1 For 3 8:30 Viva Sinerama 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Bully: The Vampire Slayer 9:00 Felicity 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Chicago Hope 11:30 Police Hour	5:30 NBA Game of the Week 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Thursday Nights at the Movies 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 MTV Non-Stop Hits 6:30 Be Seen @ MTV 7:00 Greed 7:30 Cineplex 23 *Shine* 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Travel Time	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 El Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 El Behind the Scenes 8:30 El Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show
SAT	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Digimon 8:00 Young Hercules 8:30 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Rosalinda 11:30 Jullie 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo Pilipino 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Pulso ng Masa 10:15 National Network News 11:00 The Scene 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Ginlong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sliders 8:00 The Big Night 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pokemon 8:00 Bubble Gang 9:30 GMA Love Stories 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 One Cubed	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Malcolm in the Middle 8:30 Dharma and Greg 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA 10:00 Kabayo, Karera, Kareriista 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:00 Monster By Mistake 6:30 Batman 7:00 Greed 7:30 Survivor 8:30 Snoops 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Chilling 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 El Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 El Behind the Scenes 8:30 El Mysteries & Scandals 9:00 El True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman Show

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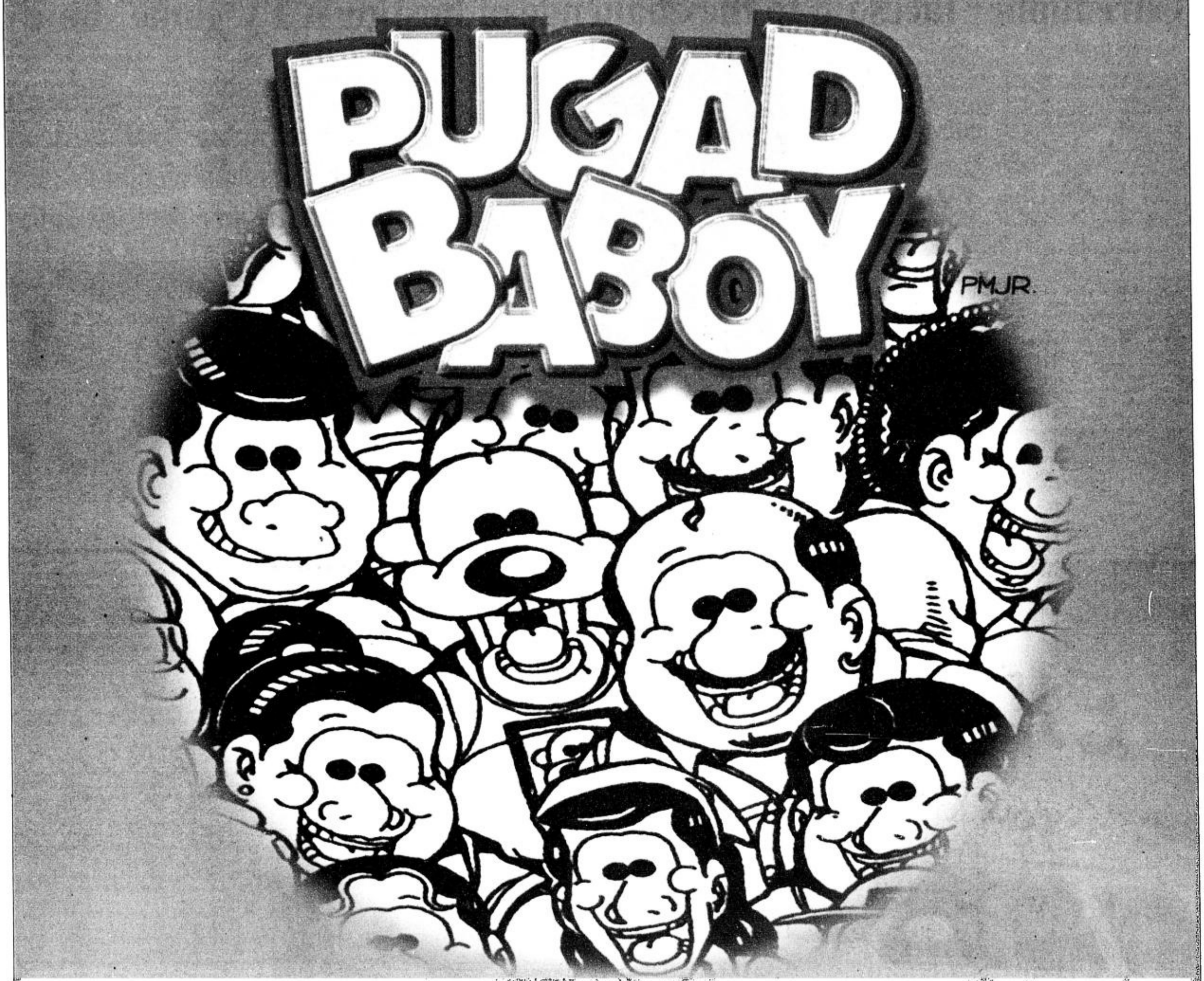

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It doesn't cost a thing to fall in love with Jennifer Lopez

BY RICKY T. GALLARDO

HONG KONG—Lo and behold, Jennifer Lopez made it to her three-day whirlwind album promo tour of Asia without a hitch, despite everything that has happened to her colorful personal life the past few weeks.

With the release of her latest album from Sony Music called "J.Lo" in the former British colony, Lopez is reaffirming that she can separate what is professional from what is personal.

Rare encounter

At the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Wan Chai district, print and broadcast journalists from all over Asia gathered to bask in a rare encounter with one of the world's biggest celebrities.

After "the-making-of-the-video" clip was forced on us, we were warned by the program host: "Ladies and gentlemen, due to an ongoing court order, you will not be able to ask any questions regarding Mr. Puffy or the court case (Sean "Puff Daddy" Combs is facing weapons and bribery charges in New York)."

The Belle from the Bronx came out looking poised on her 7.5 cm. heels, dressed in a fringed gold waistcoat that showed off a chunk of her cleavage, her lower body wrapped in tight blue jeans which did mega-justice to her ample hips.

No doubt that Lopez is currently on a professional high. Early this month, Lopez achieved the rare feat of topping both the US Billboard album charts and the movie box-office charts on the same week. "J.Lo" sold more than 272,000 copies in the US on its first week of release, while her romantic comedy film, "The Wedding Planner," grossed more than $14 million on its first weekend.

Surreal

"It's surreal," she exclaimed, recalling how she felt when the good news reached her, and the fact that she was cited at the Grammys made her heart swell even more. "It's incredible just to be mentioned. When you're nominated for a Grammy, forget everything else!" she exclaimed.

Lopez strikes us as a down-to-earth woman who tries to consciously stay away from the nitty-gritty and works hard at portraying herself as an ordinary girl who has just happened to have made it big. She's the highest-paid Latina celebrity in Hollywood with an estimated fortune of $30 million—"you know, very much like the rest of you," she joked.

But being big has its price and, like many who were there before her, Lopez has learned to take everything in stride, including the most absurd rumors and the nastiest allegations.

"I'm still a human being, and when people write things that are mean and nasty, it hurts me still, but I try not to read too much stuff. I don't really focus on things I can't control," she said, adding, "I'm quite sure that there's some icky stuff written about me, but at the end of the day, my work speaks for itself."

Heart and soul

"My work is what I put my heart and soul into, it's not so much about how I wear my hair--although I put a lot of thought into that, too!"

Her hard work is evident in her new CD, with Lopez squeezing a lot of her creative juices into the project. "I've written a lot more songs here than in my previous albums, and it feels great when people show their appreciation by really liking what you think they'll like," she gushed

LOPEZ. Belle from the Bronx.

Her single "Love Don't Cost a Thing" has skyrocketed up the music charts of Asia (J.Lo accepted eight unprecedented awards from the different countries comprising the Asian hub of Sony Music upon her arrival here) and continues to sweep the radio stations by storm. In fact, even the noontime shows in Manila have launched their sing-and-dance contests to join in the "J.Lo" craze.

"I love what I do, but nothing can take the place of spending an afternoon with my niece. Children are definitely very close to my heart and part of my future plans," Lopez shared.

She's been heard saying, "I want a family, and I feel I am at that age when I think that's something I want to do!" *(To be concluded)*

Christopher faces up to the challenge of hosting a TV game show

BY VERON DIONISIO

WE now have worthy movies in the can like Laurice Guillen's "American Adobo" and Chito Roño's "Dekada '70." What do the two films have in common? They both have Christopher de Leon in the cast.

In Guillen's film, Christopher plays an activist who migrated to the United States where his socio-political convictions remain strong despite the lack of venues to ventilate those beliefs. He finds the reason to stay in the country for good when People Power II happens.

Insensitive husband

In "Dekada," he plays Amanda Bartolome's insensitive husband, Julian Sr., who thinks that this is a "man's world." His conventional views on gender-related issues and the stereotypical roles men and women play have made him believe that the true measure of a man depends on how he handles his family life. In his mind, he's God's greatest gift to humanity, until Amanda leaves him and seeks her own independence and self-worth.

There are no big or small roles for Christopher. "As long as the material is good and makes sense, I don't mind playing supporting roles," he stresses.

True enough, in "Nasaan ang Puso?" he plays Maricel Soriano's supportive husband. The film is about Maricel's struggle to reconcile her estranged family. And then in "Sugatang Puso," Christopher's character is considered peripheral, the story's focus being the relationship between a stepmother and her stepson.

It seems Christopher's acting career has reached its peak. "But," he says, "I'm sure there are still great roles out there. And that excites me to go on."

Initial reservations

One thing sure, Christopher never closes his door to more challenges. For instance, despite his initial reservations, he's tried hosting a game show, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." It's a whole new ballgame for him, but he has somehow managed to learn the tricks of the game.

According to the show's producers, it has so far given away P2.6M worth of cash prizes. And come season two, pending the Department of Trade and Industry's approval, they plan to up the grand prize to P2M.

DE LEON. Doing his level best to become a better game-show host.

To prepare for the job, Christopher has added more books to his reading list. "I've always liked reading biographies and historical books. But now, because of this job, I've tried to read the encyclopedia, and the dictionary to know how certain words should be pronounced. And I'm now more interested in literature. The only way I could succeed here is to be open about all these," Christopher reveals.

Contrary to what some viewers believe, the host of the show does not really know the correct answers in advance. The only time Christopher knows the question and the right answer is when the computer monitor flashes them during the show proper. He can't even read them beforehand to familiarize himself with certain words, names of places, people, etc. That's tough!

Taped as live

What if he mispronounced or didn't know how to pronounce certain words? "Yeah, that's another difficult part of hosting this program. You never really know when the next mistake would happen," agrees Christopher. "Bu that's how the show really is. And I just have to do it the best I can."

But because the show is taped as live, according to its executive producer Jonathan Aligada, mistakes can be minimized by retakes. "But if the mistakes are not that glaring, we let them be," says Aligada.

After a season, Christopher believes he has overcome his first-time jitters. And he's enjoying the new challenge. "Hosting is entirely different from acting. Acting is more like a give-and-take thing, it's more collaborative. Hosting, on the other hand, requires a certain level of detachment. You care what the contestant does and how he conducts himself, but as a host, you have to be more objective. I think I'm slowly getting there!" he grins.

After 11 years in the biz, Tootsie Guevara feels her career is just starting

GUEVARA. Has found her voice in the recording field.

BY JOCELYN VALLE

When singer Tootsie Guevara was 15 years old, she got a tempting offer to do a bold movie, but she turned it down. "No regrets," she says now, five years later. "*E, 'di wala sanang* 'Pasulyap-sulyap,'" she adds, referring to one of her hit songs in her platinum album, "Kaba."

Niche

Needless to say, Tootsie has found her niche in singing. It's always been her first love, she points out. She started singing at age four in Cebu, where her dad worked. She had her first formal singing lessons there two years later.

In one of the singing contests that Tootsie joined, she was discovered by Raul Laurente, who brought her to Manila. Soon after, the young singer found her way to German Moreno's "That's Entertainment" teen program on Channel 7. That was in 1990 and she was only nine years old then.

"'That's Entertainment' was a good training ground," she maintains. "Being in the show helped me hone my talents and develop my confidence." Tootsie felt sad when it went off the air, but she took the cancellation as a chance to explore the biz further.

With the help of Star Records, Tootsie has been successful in finding her voice in the recording business. Her "Kaba" album features sweet, adolescent love songs that strike a chord in many teenagers, who comprise a big percentage of tape and CD buyers in the country.

Statement

Though Tootsie still dishes out love songs in her latest recording, she's making a statement that she's now a young lady, ready to tackle adult themes and to inject mature insights into her music.

Thus in her new album "Sa Puso Ko," Toosie, with the help of seasoned songwriters like Vehnee Saturno, Ben Escasa and Larry Hermosa, is able to give different interpretations to the otherwise standard views on love.

The carrier single, "Nang Dahil Sa Pag-ibig," is about the pain of unrequited love, and although we don't agree with the song's message, we find Tootsie's depiction of longing effective. It may not help advance the causes of women's groups but a lot of women can be really helpless when they're in love.

Tootsie's take on Ed Formoso's "You'll Always Be My Number One" is not quite like its original singer's (Verni Varga, after all, is incomparable). Good thing, though, Tootsie has a youthful exuberance that matches the song's funky arrangement.

Theme

Tootsie goes personal in "Do You?," whose lyrics she wrote, and in "More Than Love," which Martin Nievera penned (with music by Ben Escasa) after a heart-to-heart talk with the young singer. You forget to snoop into Tootsie's private life, though, when you're listening to these songs, since the theme applies to most people.

"Ba't Di Mo Sabihin," "Dating Tagpuan," "Don't Say It's Over," "Ayaw Kong Mawalay Ka," "Minsan Pa," "Bakit Ngayon Lang," "I'm In Love" and the title track, "Sa Puso Ko," complete Tootsie's new album. Don't try to decode double meanings in those titles, because Tootsie has not joined the bandwagon of "naughty" tunes.

"It's not the direction we'd like to take in the album," she avers, making it clear that she has nothing against Mystica and company. But to promote the album, Tootsie has decided to go a bit sexy. Donning tight, flirty clothes, for instance. And she's learned to pout more, and giggle less.

Tootsie admits to having difficulty in changing her image. She's therefore grateful to her manager, her ex-manager, her parents and her friends for helping her achieve her new look. But those are just physical changes, she reminds us.

Love of music remains Tootsie's motivation to sing. In fact, she's still taking lessons to improve her craft. (She initially enrolled in a music course in college but later shifted to Hotel and Restaurant Management.)

She also knows how to take care of her voice. "I try to go to bed before midnight. I don't smoke. I don't drink liquor. I don't take cold drinks *at hindi ako nagtetelebabad*," she declares

Most of all, she knows that stardom can't be attained overnight. After 11 years in the biz, with two successful albums and a couple of hit songs, Tootsie feels her career is just starting--this time, on a more clearly upward trajectory.

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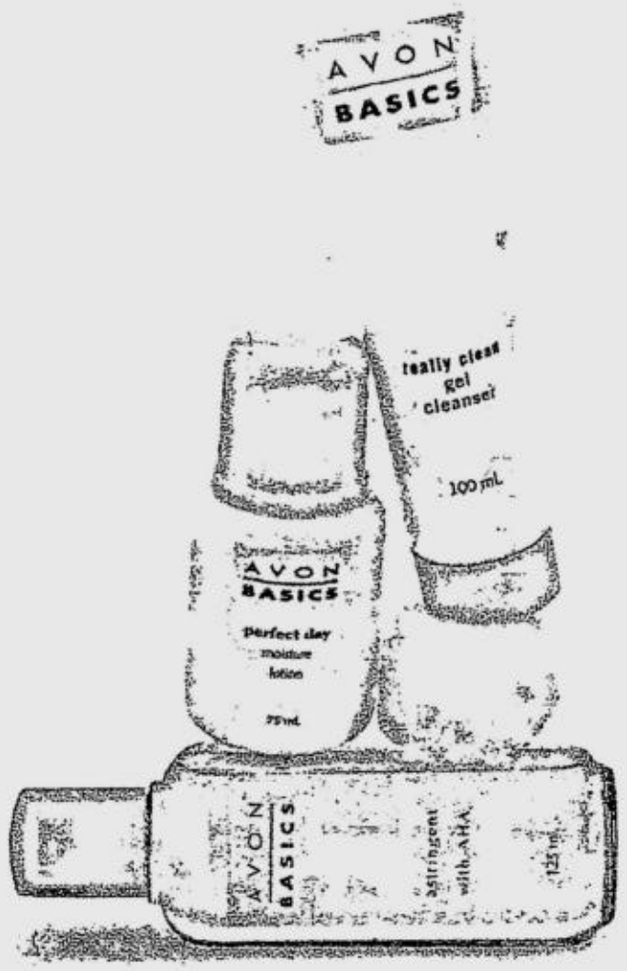

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SaturdaySPECIAL

What it takes to become a musician

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA

LET'S face it, bands, singers, boy bands and vocal harmony groups are cropping up everywhere. But if you wanna-be a musician, brace yourself because talent and musical style aren't enough. You need the right attitude and connections to be noticed.

Manager

Glenn Jacinto (vocals, Teeth) believes that a good and skillful manager prolongs the lifespan of a band, but true bonding and friendship among bandmates can push it to be even more successful. But since chemistry between bandmates can't be faked.

"We were friends before we became a band. Familiarity helps. *Parepareho kami ng pinakikinggan na* music, *walang napipilitang makisama lang. Ang mga bahay namin,* one tricycle ride away *lang sa isa't isa,"* Glenn observes.

A band also needs a good songwriter to pen potential hits. Glenn feels that, even if the vocalist has a good voice, he still needs songs with depth, heart and intensity.

Energy during a live performance is also a must. *"Dapat mahatak mo na makinig at mag-react sa tugtog n'yo ang mga nanonood sa inyo,"* he says.

Diego Castillo (guitars, Sandwich) stresses that taking care of their equipment keep their band in tiptop shape. *"Kailangan* 110 percent *ang bawat* performance, *kaya dapat alagaan ang gamit. Kapag hindi ginagamit ang gitara, pumapalya ang tunog kasi nagtatampo,"* he notes.

Tuner

Raymund Marasigan (guitars and vocals, Sandwich; drums, Eraserheads) believes that investing in the best musical instruments is a must. "A band should buy a tuner, it's the best investment. Be professional, be on time for a gig or rehearsal. Never ever play when you're intoxicated or high on drugs. Be open to other musical styles!" he advises.

Ely Buendia (vocals/songwriter, Eraserheads) adheres to the adage, "Practice makes perfect." "The only way a band can discover and master its sound is through practice. *Wala sa* talent *'yan, nasa* perseverance!"

Angel (vocals, Kulay) agrees that perseverance is the key to success. Believing in yourself also makes things possible. "Nobody can believe for you more than yourself. In the beginning, Radha and Boom did the believing for me because I was unsure about my abilities. But ultimately, you have to believe in yourself, you can't fake confidence. To be more confident when you perform, you have to persevere and practice a lot!"

Boom (vocals, Kulay) thinks that a band should express itself through its music. He believes that writing its own music gives the band a firm identity. Nobody wants to hear cover songs all the time.

"Just stay true to yourself. If people don't like your music, just believe in it. Maybe people don't dig your music because it's not the trend yet. Be patient, just keep on working on your music. Be original!"

Originality

Barbie Almalbis (vocals & guitars, Barbie's Cradle) notes that originality and passion are musts for musicians. "Be true to your heart, play what you want to play. I like playing at Gotham and Mayric's because the people there like bands that play original music. Be passionate about your songs."

Skye, Rafi and Gen (3rd Angle girl band) feel that writing your own songs can help, but having a friendly and open attitude is just as important. "Get your stuff together. Knowing what type of music you want to play gives you a direction. For us, we wanted our music to be pop, R&B and rap because it fits us,"

WHAT IT TAKES/p. E2

3RD ANGLE. (From left), Rafi, Skye and Gen.

BARBIE'S Cradle's Barbie Almalbis (center): " Be true to your heart, play what you want to play."

BADON. Attitude can make or break a musician.

GONZALES. Advises young bandmembers to finish studies first.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0488, Series of 2001.

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

What it takes to become a musician

(From page E1)

Skye says.

Kelly Badon stresses that attitude can make or break a musician. "You have to learn to adjust to the needs of your bandmates and your audience. *Dapat mahaba ang pasensya mo kapag nasa banda ka. Dapat alam mo rin ang* priorities *mo. Maraming magagaling na banda na nasira dahil lang sa maling* attitude," Kelly says.

Naldy Gonzales (keyboards, Side A) encourages wanna-be musicians to finish their studies first before venturing into music fulltime. Being open to all types of music also creates awareness and creativity among musicians.

"Being in a band can be lucrative but it's also very unstable. Even if you love music, you shouldn't sacrifice your studies. You should listen to all types of music *para magkaroon ng* diversity *ang* music *n'yo*. You should also love what you're doing so that your work has depth and soul."

Good music

Marc Abaya (vocals & guitars, Sandwich) feels that the craft of making good music should be a musician's main focus, instead of money or fame.

"You shouldn't always do things by the book. Have fun. Music is the important thing—if you're happy with it, everything will happen.

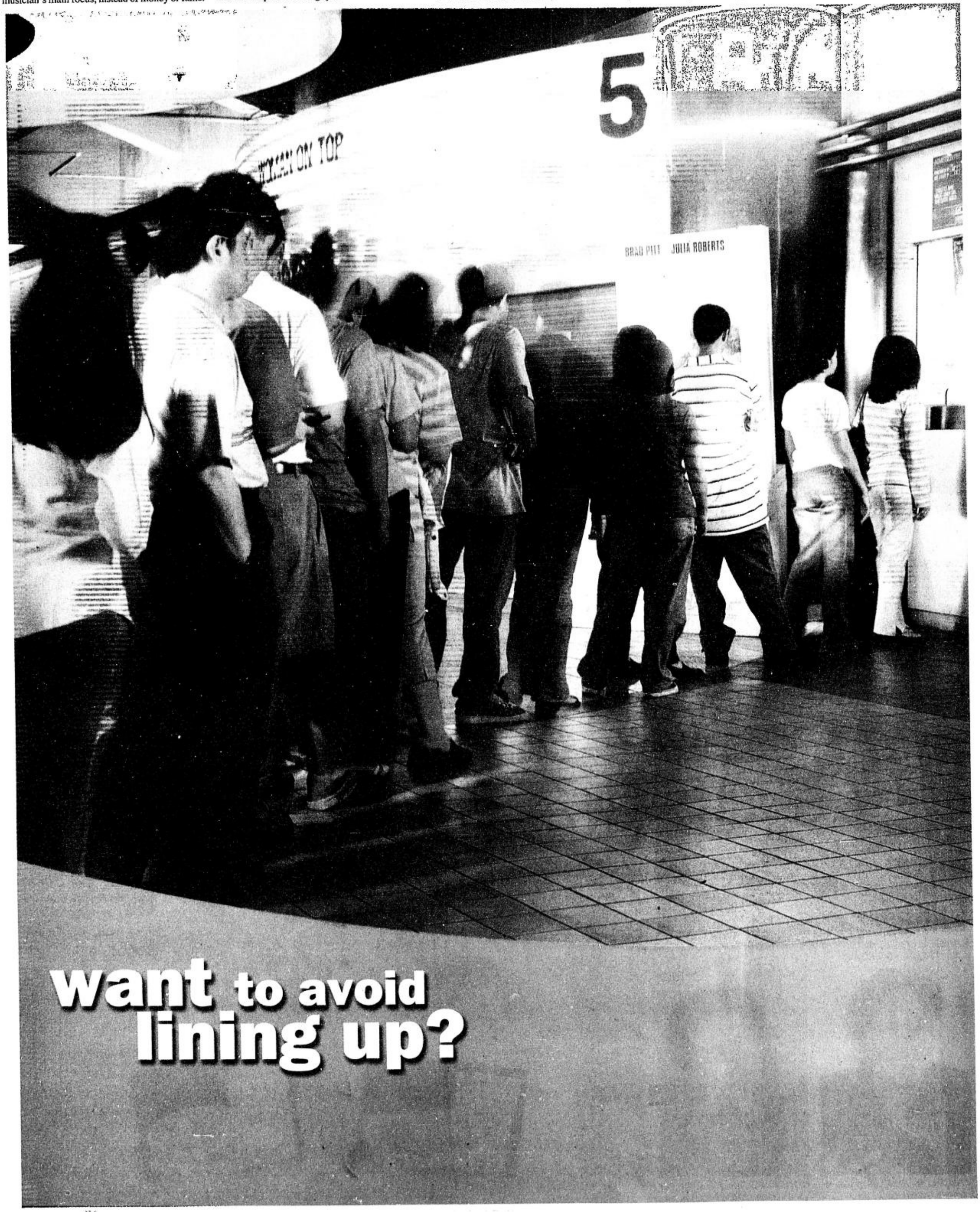
"When making a demo (tape), the lyrics and melody should be clear. Your demo is your first cut, your first record, it doesn't have to sound perfect, but the rhythm and melody should be good," he points out.

Joey Generoso (vocals, Side A) adds that having a good fan base can help things along. "*Pumupuwesto kami sa mga* hotel at music lounge *dati. Importante iyon kasi nate*-test *n'yo kung tanggap kayo ng* audience. There's an exchange of reactions when you play before a live audience.

"You should also have humility and gratitude. *Hindi dapat lumaki ang ulo, araw lang ang sumisikat.* Sometimes a musician should also learn how to accept failure," he says.

Summing up: Talent, perseverance, innovativeness, creativity, dedication and having a good fan base spell success for a musician, and the right attitude and discipline can help him sustain his popularity. So, who wants to follow the footsteps of these guys?

TEETH'S Glenn Jacinto (second from left) believes a good manager prolongs a band's lifespan.



'Billy Elliot' star vivifies film's theme of youthful determination and ambition

BELL (second from right) upset Tom Hanks and Russell Crowe for Best Actor at the British Film Awards.

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

SOME months ago, Jamie Bell was a veritable unknown. Then, he was tapped over hundreds of other auditionees to play the title role in the British film, "Billy Elliot." And his life has never been the same since.

Noteworthy

The movie is particularly noteworthy because it's about a young boy from a rough neighborhood who develops a love for *ballet*. That's a big switch because classical dance is still regarded by some (many?) as a "sissy" activity.

Thus, the hope is that the film will go a long way in straightening out people's minds about this potentially dodgy topic. In so doing, it could help energize the dance world by motivating strong young men to train as ballet dancers, thus offsetting the impression that only effete gays 'should' go in for classical dance.

Encouraging sign

An encouraging sign is that "Billy Elliot" is doing well in its initial runs in England and the USA. In fact, its earnings in England have matched the strong showing at the box office of "The Full Monty."

Most encouraging of all is Bell's recent victory as Best Actor at the British Film Awards, where he scored an upset by besting the "heavy" likes of Tom Hanks ("Cast Away") and Russell Crowe ("Gladiator").

The unexpected victory was nothing less than a coup for 14-year-old Jamie, who is clearly one of the film year's most impressive discoveries.

Controversy

But "Billy Elliot" has not been without its share of controversy. Although it's an inspiring movie for viewers as young as its lead character, the film has been slapped with an "R" (For Adults Only)" rating in the United States. Ironically, this means that teenagers won't be able to see the "youth-inspiring" production.

The bone of contention isn't excessive sex or violence, because "Billy Elliot" has neither element. What the classifiers in the States belonging to the self-regulatory Motion Picture Association of America wanted to protect young viewers against was the movie's liberal use of the "F" word (which is heard often in the course of the film).

In Great Britain, on the other hand, the film has been approved for viewing by the MPAA's British counterpart for audiences aged 15 years and older.

Disparity

What accounts for this disparity? The British board is more aware of the fact that this is how the youths in the tough mining town of Everington, England actually talk, so the "pungent" dialogue is deemed realistic and thus allowable for mid-teens to hear.

On the other hand, movie producers in the States were recently put on the defensive by congressional hearings that accused American movie producers of cynically making R-rated films for adolescent and teen viewers, thus arousing the ire of parents and educators. So, "Billy Elliot" has been a victim of the backlash that has resulted from that public outcry.

New move

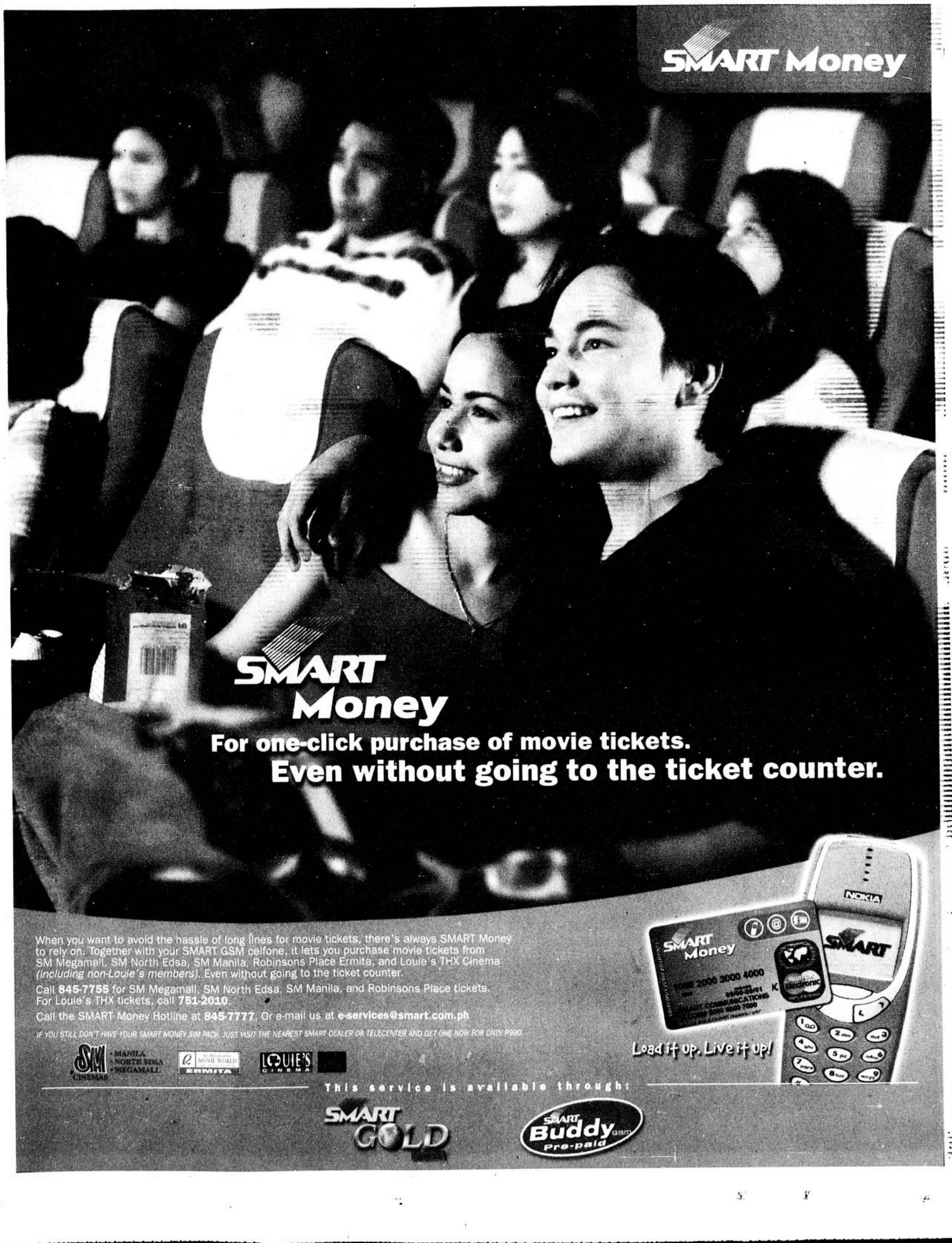
It's too late now for "Billy Elliot," which can be seen only by adult viewers in the States, but there's a new move to call for a review of the MPAA's 32-year-old system for rating movies.

What the protesters want is a less "blanket" series of categories—not just a generic "R" for films with excessively strong sex, violence or profanity, but a different "R" for each infraction, with different age restrictions attached to each. Logically, profanity would be regarded as the least potentially harmful element in this revised system.

Similar adjustments

Will this move prosper? And, will some quarters in the Philippines be inspired by this move to also ask for similar adjustments on the policies and procedures of the Movie and Television Ratings and Classification Board?

Whatever the outcome, the hope is that, when "Billy Elliot" is approved for showing in the Philippines, its rating will enable some teenagers to watch the movie, despite its profusion of cuss words, so that they can benefit from the movie's inspiring story of youthful determination and ambition.



I will party hard this month. I will party hard this month. I will party hard this month.

SaturdaySPECIAL

CRUISE. His total earnings for "Mission Impossible, 2" were a whopping $75 million.

Tom Cruise leads Hollywood's top moneymakers

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

AS films make more and more money globally, stars are demanding—and getting—increasingly larger shares of the bounty. Who's getting top money in Hollywood these days? Here's Entertainment Weekly's latest update:

Time was when producers said they'd never agree to pay stars a cent more than the top fee of $20 million per film. But only a few months later, that ceiling started cracking, and today's top price is $25 million—plus change.

Disappointed

Mel Gibson got that lofty amount for "The Patriot," so the movie's producers couldn't be faulted for feeling disappointed when the movie didn't turn out to be the huge hit they were expecting it to be.

Also a top earner is Harrison Ford. He got "only" $20 million for "What Lies Beneath," but he's upped his ante to $25 million for "K-19."

But *the* big-bucks guy in Hollywood is Tom Cruise. His total earnings for "Mission Impossible, 2" were a whopping $75 million!

Big share

How did he get to earn all that money? Cannily, he settled for a lower flat fee in favor of a big share in the movie's profits, and he got paid more millions for producing the film.

Two notches down, Jim Carrey rates $20 million per film. For "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," he also got a big share of the movie's merchandising income. Also in the $20 million league are Will Smith and Eddie Murphy.

Yes, Smith and Murphy make more money than the similarly popular Keanu Reeves, who rates a talent fee of $15 million per movie. *But* he also gets 10 percent of the gross income.

Golden guys

If the film is a hit, as most of his recent starrers have been, that may push him ahead, in terms of total earnings, of the golden guys who make $20 million per movie.

Young comer Brendan Fraser is getting $12.5 million for "The Mummy Returns," thanks to the increased clout he now wields in Hollywood, due to the huge income of the first "Mummy" film.

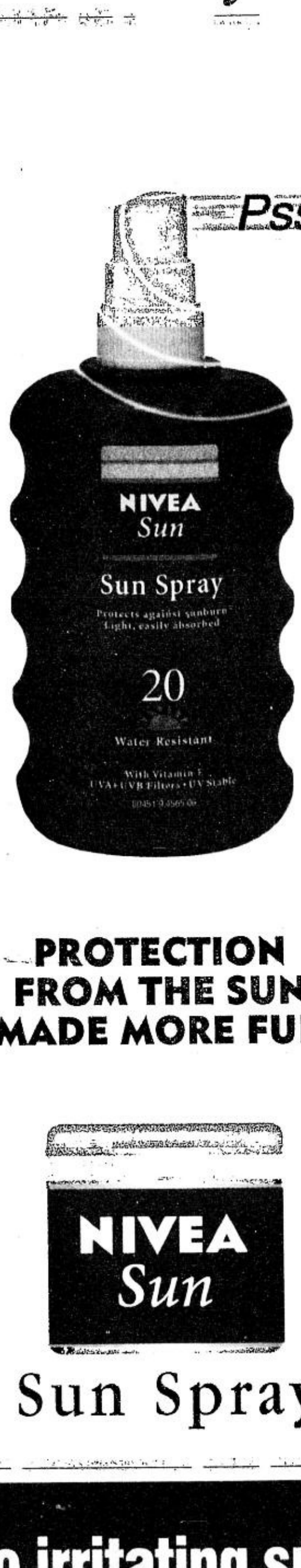
Everyone knows that the blockbuster success of "Hannibal" is due in large part to Anthony Hopkins' ultra-evil portrayal of the title character. But Hopkins got a "mere" $10 million for doing the film.

Raise

Perhaps that's why he's acting coy about doing yet another sequel—unless the price is right! A raise to at least $15 million could make him more enthusiastic about signing on the dotted line for yet another go at his signature Hannibal Lecter character.

Jackie Chan is also getting $10 million for "Rush Hour, 2"—plus a share of the gross. That makes Chan the highest-paid Asian talent in Hollywood.

TOM/ P. F5



Stars who lived happily ever after

BY BEHN CERVANTES

HOLLYWOOD is certainly one of the divorce capitals of the world, no matter if the actual dissolution of the much-publicized marriages takes place in Reno or Mexico. To the reading world and to the millions of fans of the estranged couples, Hollywood is the cause of it all.

Temptations

Problems could stem from work pressure, a lack of understanding of the difference between the reel and the real world, personal conflicts that result from the collision of two grand egos, temptations that come from torrid romances acted out on the celluloid screen that are continued off-screen, along with a myriad other reasons why even ordinary marriages fail.

Hollywood is bigger than life. Along with glitz and glamour is Hollywood's infamy, the result of the many scandals that have characterized the lives of some of its best known stars. Love, sex and drugs, usually in excess, have made Hollywood news since its earliest days. However, these scandals have always been a source of global interest. The more extraordinary the news, the greater the thrill of millions of fans all over the world after the Los Angeles hillside area became known as the modern Babylon.

Mysterious, decadent, eccentric, kinky and perverse are some of the words used to describe the off-screen goings-on in Hollywood. Many of the biggest stars weren't free of newsworthy scandals at one point or other in their colorful careers.

Scandals

As a rule, the bigger the stars, the more colorful are their off-screen lives, as well as the scandals involving them. The world seems to half-wish for these stars to do something scandalous. There is a vicarious pleasure for them in witnessing scandals involving their celluloid icons who also happen to be their sexual fantasies.

Movie fans all over the world lap up Hollywood gossip and news of scandals regarding stars. They never seem to tire of them!

Of course, media makes sure they get sizable helpings of juicy gossip on a regular basis. The more mystifying and shocking the scandal, the better for those scandal magazines that are sold like pancakes all over America's groceries, alongside milk, butter, chocolates and other nutritional products.

WOODWARD AND NEWMAN. Their romance heated up during the making of "The Long, Hot Summer."

When you think of Greta Garbo, Charlie Chaplin, Rudolf Valentino, Gloria Swanson, Hedy Lamarr, Errol Flynn, Frank Sinatra, Elizabeth Taylor, Ava Gardner, Lana Turner, Marlene Dietrich, Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney, Joan Crawford and Bette Davis, their beauty, talent, and hot and multiple romances as well as scandals come to mind.

The past few years have brought out in the open hot romances from many a Hollywood closet. The torrid secret romances only recently uncovered allegedly involved Dietrich and Garbo as well as Flynn and Tyrone Power and Howard Hughes in a ménage a trois.

It is said that an unrequited romantic offer by Joan Crawford to rival Bette Davis forever angered the former and caused her to campaign against Davis when she was up for an unprecedented 3rd best Actress Academy Award for "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane."

Libido

None of the above-mentioned Hollywood celebrities were happily married, at least not for very long. They were better known for having taken the marital merry-go-round and exchanged partners whenever their libido demanded. Surprisingly, however, despite the fact that Hollywood is synonymous with marital failure, there have been couples that succeeded despite all of Hollywood's temptations and pitfalls. They may not have succeeded the first time around, but on the second or third try, they hit the mark.

They are, of course the exceptions rather than the rule.

They stand today as Hollywood's fine example of marital longevity:

Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward were exciting young stars in Hollywood when they met on the set of "The Long, Hot Summer." Both were married then but proximity during that torrid summer kindled their passions and more than professional interest in each other. The talented pair fell in love and maintained a secret romance.

Soon after, Joanne and blue-eyed Paul extricated themselves from their former partners to "live happily ever after" as man and wife. Their marriage has survived these many years despite the fact that Joanne beat Paul to the Academy Award for her riveting performance in "Three Faces of Eve."

Best Actor award

She received as many other nominations as he did through their long and sterling careers, but no one was happier than Joanne Woodward Newman when Paul finally got his Best Actor award—30 plus years after she did!

Humphrey Bogart was a much-married actor when he made films with newcomer Lauren Bacall. They romanced each other in "To Have and Have Not" and other films adapted from Hemingway movies. Ms Bacall was barely out of her teens but that did not stop the older actor to woo and then marry the sultry and gravel-voiced Bacall, who was always Betty to him.

She became his 4th wife, the queen of his mansion and the muse of his hard-drinking gang "The Rat Pack."

Later on, the singing, drinking and macho gang was headed by Bogart groupie Frank Sinatra. In fact, the crooner also assigned himself the duty to comfort and romance *la* Betty when Bogie passed away from throat cancer in 1957. Alas, their romance did not last.

However, after tumultuous marriages with Ava Gardner and Mia Farrow, Ol' Blue Eyes finally found long-term happiness with his last marital partner, an ex-wife of comic Groucho Marx. So, Sinatra after failed marriages with Hoboken sweetheart Nancy and his two actress wives as well as zillions of romances that are supposed to have included Jackie Kennedy and her siter, Princess Lee Radziwill finally settled down to marital bliss. He did so after many tries and misses. However, he left his last wife a very rich widow. *(To be concluded)*

Janet McBride promises to deliver

BY REMY M. UMEREZ

ONCE in a while, a refreshing and lovely face comes along and the whole world gets captivated by her beauty. One such face belongs to 17-year-old Janet McBride, a Fil-Australian.

Front row

Born in Brisbane, Australia, Janet wanted so much to invade show business that she decided to come home and try her luck. The first thing she did was go to ABS-CBN and watch "ASAP." She purposely sat in the front row hoping someone would take notice of her.

A talent scout did notice her unique beauty and asked whether she would be interested in auditioning to be a part of Star Circle Batch 8. It was the break she was praying for.

She sang during the audition but there was one thing the management of ABS-CBN instantly discovered: the camera loves Janet. She registers a strong presence, an important factor if you want to succeed in becoming a movie star.

Her vibrant face now graces commercials for Juicy Fruit, Knorr Champorado, Safeguard and Secret. She is also a favorite choice for magazine covers.

First movie

Janet has only done one movie so far. Her convincing portrayal of the headstrong daughter of Dina Bonnevie in the blockbuster movie "Tanging Yaman" earned her the admiration of both the public and the movie press. It proved that behind the physical beauty lies a budding actress.

Janet has appeared in various television shows like "Labs Ko Si Babe," "Tabing Ilog" and Star Drama Presents Rave" where she gave the audience a glimpse of what she has to offer. She sings on "ASAP" and dances as well on "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" and "Keep on Dancing."

Her visibility on the boob tube continues with the show "Richard Loves Lucy," where she plays the daughter of Richard Gomez's boss and is the object of affection of Patrick Garcia.

McBRIDE, More TV projects coming up.

Janet is taking Tagalog lessons because she knows that facility with the language is essential for local film-TV stardom.

Tender age

At a tender age, Janet is already independent and handles her own finances. Once she finds herself financially stable, she wants to have a house of her own.

Her days off are completely devoted to catching up on her sleep. She adores chocolates and misses the company of her pet dog Jay, whom she left in Australia.

Janet hopes to resume her studies and prefers attending classes at Angelicum to home study. She says she would not want to miss the excitement of going to school.

On the strength of her growing popularity, ABS-CBN is lining up more television and movie projects for Janet but they're being kept under wraps. Whatever those plans are, Janet promises to deliver!

Meet the lively kids of Disney's 'Recess: School's Out'

WALT Disney Pictures brings the kids of the popular animated TV show "Recess" to the big screen in the cool animated adventure, "Recess: School's Out."

Twin boys

Third Street School—the setting for "Recess"—is home to a wide variety of kids. There's the Diggers, twin boys always trying to dig to China; the Hustler Kid, who can get you anything you want at a price; the kindergartners—wild savages with painted faces; and King Bob, the sixth grade monarch whose rule is law.

Navigating through this complex world are our heroes, T.J, Vince, Gretchen, Mikey, Spinelii, and Gus—all very different, but each complementing the others.

"Recess" creators Paul Germain and Joe Ansolabehere based their characters on childhood experiences, remembering the different kinds of kids in their playground.

Identifiable

"We wanted to make the characters real, but we also wanted to make them identifiable, so that lots of different kinds of kids could hook in. Every kid in the show would either be like you or like somebody you knew," says Paul. "We remembered our own childhoods and we talked about, 'What was your group of friends?"

For the group's central character, "we wanted an unlikely leader," Paul remembers, "but someone you would get behind because he was charismatic in an unusual way—a way you wouldn't expect."

Combining the personalities of childhood friends with a little bit of Tom Sawyer, Paul and Joe created T.J. Detweiler, "a kind of funny-looking little guy who was just charismatic," according to Paul.

Gentle giant

Then there's Mikey, who has the body of a linebacker but the soul of a poet. "We both thought of him as a gentle giant," says Paul. "We both had friends in our lives who were just big, huge guys, but would never hurt a fly."

Spinelli is the smallest kid on the playground, always looking for a fight and tough enough to take on all comers, no matter their size, boy or girl.

Gretchen is the outfit's brain trust, the one whose encyclopedic knowledge gets the gang out of scrapes time and again. The inspiration for the character originally came from Paul's wife Beatrice, who he knew in high school. "She was the brainy kid—tall and skinny, with long hair. I fell in love immediately."

Coolest

Vince is the coolest of the six—the popular, athletic kid who knows all the ins and outs of the playground. He's also a good student—the one who thinks about the future, who has it all put together. Coolheaded and patient, Vince is in some ways the peacemaker of the group. When Spinelli's ready to fight, Vince plays the diplomat ready to make peace; if T.J.'s latest scheme requires athletic prowess, Vince will be the one to deliver it.

The last member of the group is Gus, a fearful, neurotic kid. Terrified at firsts he ultimately finds inner strength and comes through.

Joe says, "I don't know that we actually had a parallel in our lives to Gus, except maybe ourselves. The fact is, Gus is the type of guy that all writers remember being—the nerdy little guy, the outsider, the newcomer. Paul and I both moved around a lot when we were kids and we were always

the new kid' in school. So we built Gus out of that first episode of 'Recess,' out of what it's like to be the new kid."

THE ANIMATED "stars" of Disney's latest animated feature are based on the film's creators' childhood recollections.

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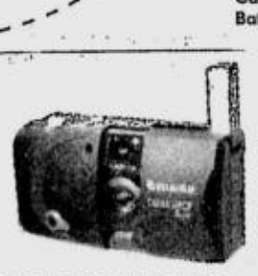

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A miracle called 'Laya'

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

FOR the past weeks, this column has been running a series on movie stars gunning for various national and local elective positions on May 14. This time, however, we'll take a breather and focus our attention on a new movement that is slowly making waves in the hearts and minds of young people today:

Youth movement

Some two weeks ago on my radio show, I guested a young man named Jose Mari Oquinena. Jose Mari talked about "Laya," a national youth movement that was a brainchild of Couples for Christ. It was officially launched last Feb. 24 in a three-and-a-half-hour, star studded show at the People Power monument in Edsa.

The presentation, "Laki sa Laya," aired live on ABS-CBN, which allowed its stars, like Marvin Agustin, Dominic Ochoa and Rico Yan, to host the occasion which was graced by some of the most dynamic show biz and political figures of our times.

If you watched it on TV, you might've thought it was just one big musical extravaganza designed to cash in on the Edsa fever. But the cameras could not possibly capture the full essence of the program: sharing and brotherhood among the youth.

Do you know that, during the show, free food consisting of *lugaw*, sandwiches, eggs and water was distributed to the audience? Like the miracle of the five loaves of bread that fed thousands during Jesus' time, everything went smoothly from the solicitation of the food items from various sponsors right down to the distribution of the food that miraculously "multiplied" and overflowed to unexplained numbers.

Powerful hand

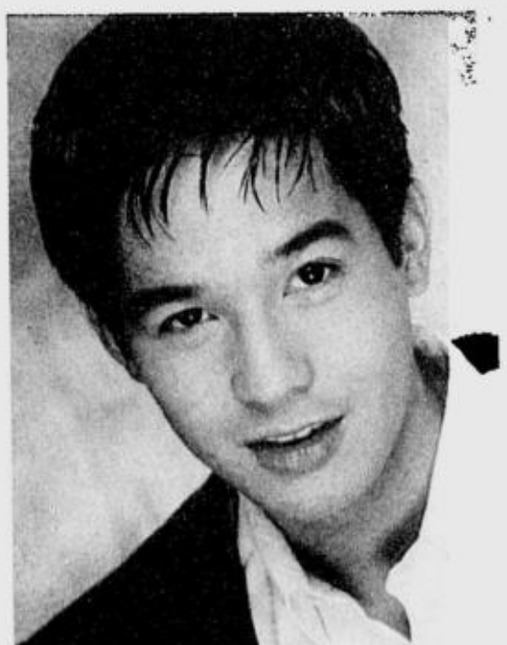
It seemed there was a mysterious and powerful hand that touched the right people to go beyond what they usually do to bring happiness to others. No one went home hungry and everything fell into place.

Even the people from Couples for Christ gave a lot of their talents and poured out their love to make the event successful.

Weeks before the presentation, they were busy as bees working on with the best and most effective way of conveying the message of hope to the youth, which has been their vision from the beginning. Dances and interpretative presentations that were products of tears and sweat (Couples of Christ did not have a lot of sponsors) were prepared unselfishly. Never mind if most of the works were not properly credited—Couples for Christ did not care for that.

Their main concern was to inspire the youth and to make them realize that they can make a difference, if only they put their minds and hearts to it.

In fact, there was even a street party after the show and a pre-presentation before the TV spectacle, proving that this was no mere publicity stunt. Even the politicos (including former President Cory Aquino, who received the first 'Laya Hero of the Youth' award together with Cardinal Sin) were asked not to extend their election campaigns to the program.



YAN. Co-host of "Laki sa Laya."

The youth was the star, not politics, and certainly not personal agendas. Truly, the sharing went on with or without a live telecast.

Launch

Another miracle was how Laya was able to mobilize the youth nationwide. Hours before the show, many were worried that people would not come, much less care about the launch.

But the organizers remained steadfast in their be

A MIRACLE/p. F3

The old ABS-CBN gang's in Singapore

By Bibsy M. Carballo

THEY'RE young. They're talented. They are part of the new brain drain. And they are making their names in Singapore as part of the burgeoning workforce in media that has been aggressively importing foreign talents, many of them Filipinos.

No secret

It's no secret that recent months have found and will continue to find some of the best and brightest lured to Singapore Television or the Straits Times publishing empire.

On a quick trip to the Garden City, we met up with some of these Filipino expats. Over lunch, we got a bird's eye view of what was occurring in Singapore at the moment, how doors have suddenly swung wide open, and how memories of Flor Contemplacion seem so far away.

Jenny Alejandro, host of "TV Patrol's" business news for six years has been anchoring the daily "Business Lunch" (12:30-1 p.m., M-F) and the Asian Market Report'" (5:30-6 p.m., 6:30-7 p.m., M-F) over Singapore's Channel News Asia, the counterpart of Manila's ANC.

On a two-year contract since January, 2000, Jenny tells us she sent a resume upon reading announcements in Philippine papers of vacancies, was sent a ticket for an interview and VTR, and was subsequently hired on the spot after which she agonized over an impending Fullbright scholarship in Journalism and International Relations that would have brought her to Columbia University in the US.

Special

Obviously, Singapore TV won out and Jenny is now one of the highly respected anchors in the government network of some six channels. Recently, she was chosen to fly to Manila to do a special on People Power Two aired over Singapore TV.

Like everyone working abroad, Jenny copes with homesickness by hanging out with her *barkada* of former ABS-CBN staffers.

Four Filipinos are currently employed by Singapore TV—writer Samantha Tongson, former writer of "Assignment" and now with Jenny at CNA; writer Trixia Carungcong, who came to CNA from the Straits Times; and writer Raymond Lee, the latest import from three months ago, who was hired via e-mail for one year to write for Channel 5's English period family drama "Growing Up."

Coming from co-writing Star Cinema movies' significantly "Anak" and "Tanging Yaman," and ABS-CBN'S "Sa Sandaling Kailangan Mo Ako," has certainly trained Raymond for the medium, although he is now writing in English.

Another colleague, James Ong, formerly writer of ABS's "The World Tonight'' and "Pulso," has returned to the print medium and is now sub-editor of "Project Eyeball" a new daily of the Straits Times family.

James and Raymond stay together, enjoying the swimming and pingpong facilities that come with their place. Most of the time, they eat out, finding it cheaper that way.

Not expensive

"Basic essentials in Singapore are not expensive," they say, debunking the general notion of it being an expensive city to live in. Even as Filipinos like to group together, there appears to be no problem in blending with the populace.

One of the best things about Singapore is its being multi-cultural, says Jenny. "They are sensitive to other cultures," she observes.

Of the over four million population, roughly 500 thousand is foreign while the local population is made up of Chinese, Malay and Indian. Approximately 100 thousand Filipinos live and work in Singapore, some 20 to 30 thousand professionals and the rest domestics.

The professionals have invaded all fields, from education, medicine, business and architecture, to fashion, entertainment, media, and the arts. At the time of our visit, the musical "RENT," with a predominantly Filipino cast, was playing to full houses.

"It is also widely acknowledged," says Jenny, "that Filipinos are highly creative and excellent in the English medium." This is the reason why Filipinos are quickly hired for jobs in television, newspapers, and advertising.

Despite their coming from the relatively open society of the Philippines, particularly Manila, the trio don't seem to be much bothered by the strict disciplinarian policy of the Singaporean state.

"They say it's a police state we live in, but frankly I don't feel it at all," says Raymond.

Pubs

There are enough watering holes and pubs where the young congregate at night to air their grievances and let their hair down. And besides, self-discipline never hurt anyone, they all agree.

Reacting to accusations of tight government control over everything, Lenny feels that things will eventually loosen up. "Give them time," she says "They are such a young republic (gaining independence from Malaysia only in 1965) and they have shown a willingness to grow."

While the group appears to be enjoying its stint in Singapore, it is obvious that it is just one stage in their career paths. They will have greater things in store for them, whether back in Manila or in other countries.

Meanwhile, Singapore will continue to become a second home to their other colleagues in the business back home, who undoubtedly will be called upon to replace them.

FROM left, Ong, Alejandro and Lee.

A miracle . . .

(From page F2)

lief that, if you resign everything to God, He'll make the impossible happen—and the show was resoundingly well-attended, with the formal launching happening simultaneously in eight other cities all over the country (Iloilo, Naga, Dumaguete, Ormoc, Cagayan de Oro, Bacolod, Cebu and Davao), beamed via satellite.

Even stars like Francis Magalona, Jolina Magdangal, Jamie Rivera, Rivermaya, Vanessa del Bianco, etc. came in droves, all-out in their support and belief in the cause.

Going deeper, what does this all mean? It says that, contrary to popular perception, young people's interests go beyond *gimiks* and texting and the other happy times youth engage themselves in. They also care about their country, still dream of a bright future and are willing to do something about the corruption and immorality in their midst.

As for our *artistas*, the event proved that it's not just huge talent fees and maximum exposure that prompt them to lend their talents to a cause. Somewhere in their hearts, despite the fame and money they have achieved, they, too, are people who care and are willing to make a difference, if given the chance.

Logistical support

As Laya pointed out, the problem of the youth is that they lack the structure and the logistical support that will constructively and proactively channel their energies and idealism towards the realization of their dreams. Hopefully, with Laya, things are finally going to happen.

To do this, Laya fleshed out the seven covenants of the youth: 1. Freedom from Immorality, Commitment to Principles 2. Freedom from Corruption, Commitment to Integrity 3. Freedom from Iniquity, Commitment to Justice 4. Freedom from Inequality, Commitment to Equal Opportunity 5. Freedom from Poverty, Commitment to People Empowerment 6. Freedom from Crime and Violence, Commitment to Peace and Harmony, and 7. Freedom from Environmental Degradation and Commitment to nature and our world.

But it doesn't stop there. Last Sunday, a day-long orientation seminar-workshop for youth leaders was sponsored by Couples for Christ in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City. There, 60 leaders from at least 30 youth groups and organizations mapped out plans that will flesh out the seven covenants of Laya (the Bantay Balota program, Kalinga sa Mahirap, Blood-letting Campaign etc.) There are more wonderful miracles and initiatives to follow as Laya is still in the process of defining itself.

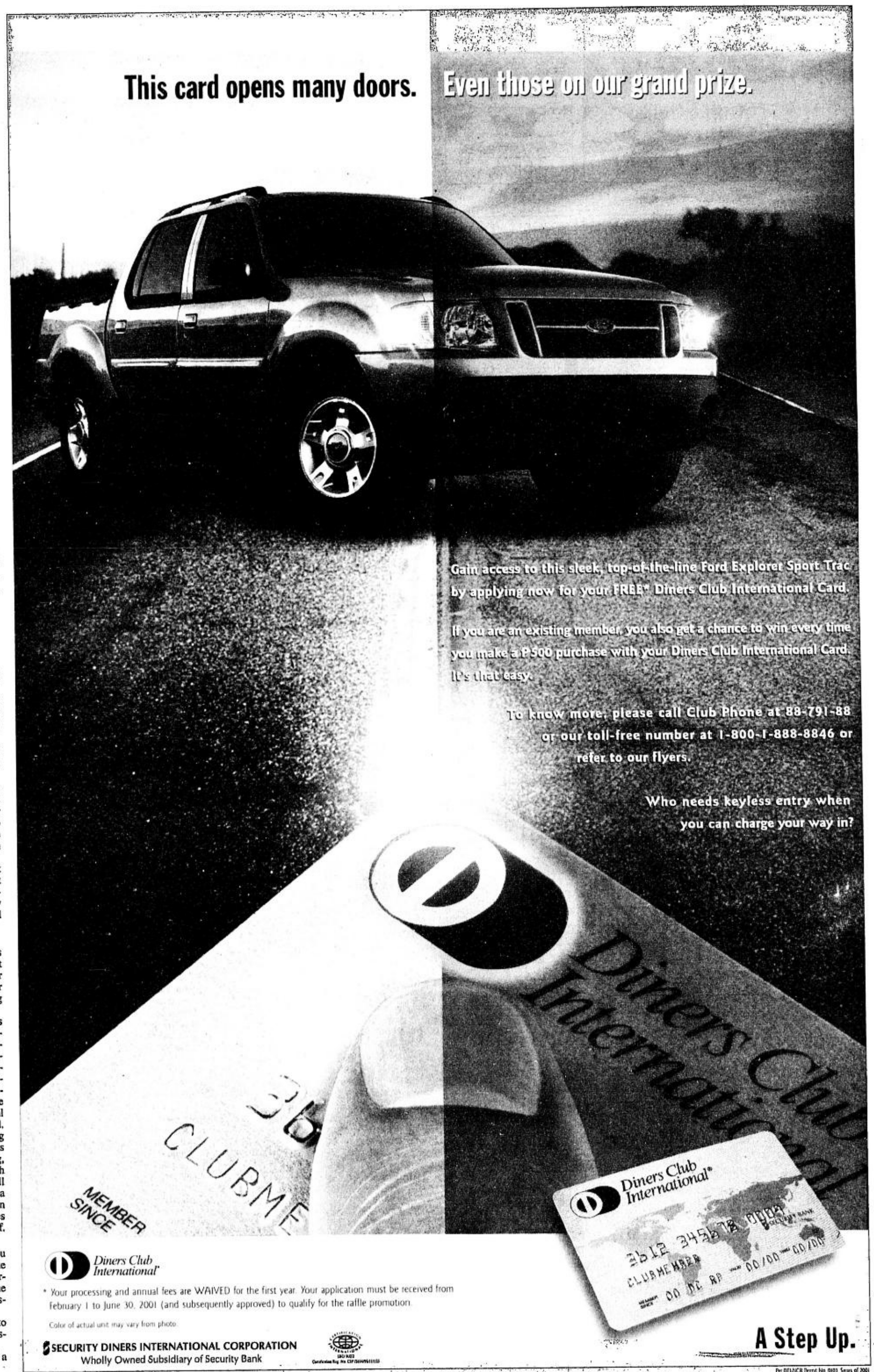
Small seed

If Laya is successful with these programs, can you imagine how it will reverse the equation and reduce the number of poor people in this country? More importantly, can you imagine how such a small seed has the potential of becoming a tree that will kindle the passion of our youth to dream again?

They are the hope of our future. And for them to be that, they have to keep dreaming, to remain idealistic *and* willing to work for a better tomorrow.

Our youth need a reason to believe, they need a miracle.

And with Laya, one is finally on the way.



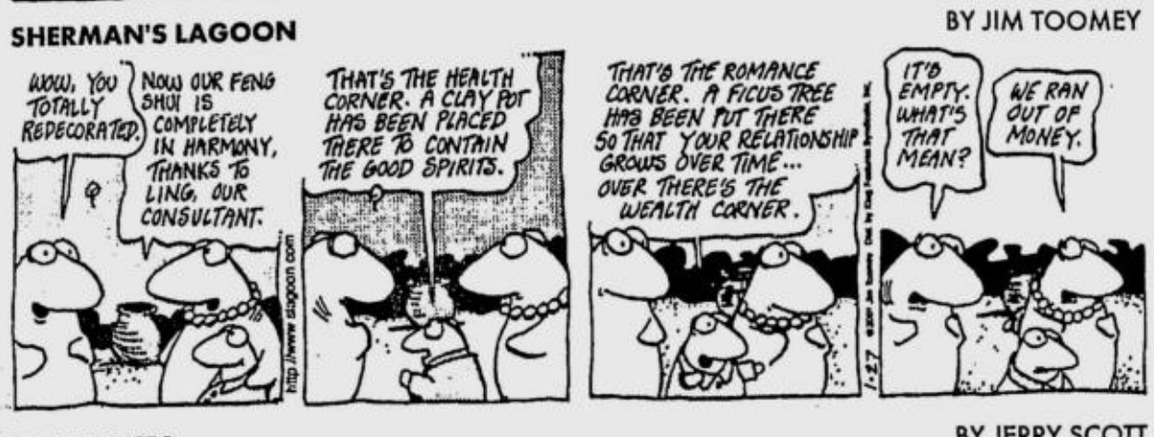
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY



SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sharon Stone, Prince Edward, Bob Greene, Jasmine, Guy, Chuck Norris, Shannon Miller

Happy Birthday: Don't let small disappointments stop you in your tracks this year. There are all sorts of possibilities available to you if you just open your eyes. Put your efforts into what you do best, and you will reap the rewards you're looking for. Your numbers: 3, 16, 17, 20, 24, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't confide in just anyone. Someone you know may be twisting your words around. Stay alert. If you become preoccupied, it could lead to minor accidents.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Social activities will be stimulating. You will meet someone who interests you more than just as a friend. Look into activities that will help you get into tiptop shape.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can expect to encounter conflicts with regard to legal agreement or contracts. Pass the time with entertaining activities that won't cost an arm and a leg.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): New love connections can be made through the company you keep. The relationship will move rather rapidly, so hold onto your hat and approach the situation with courage.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Sit down with a good friend and toss some ideas around that pertain to making extra money. You may be able to start a business with virtually no overhead if you use the skills you already have. Consulting may be the answer.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your energy is high, and competitive physical events will entice you. Look at investments that appear to be lucrative. Friends will introduce you to someone special.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Behind-the-scenes activity will bring the most unusual rewards. Volunteer work will open your eyes to a host of new avenues that you can stroll down.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your ability to work with fine detail will bring you approval from others. Avoid exhaustion, or minor ailments will slow you down. You must pace yourself better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't exaggerate, or you may be frowned upon. Your attitude toward what you want in a mate is changing, which could cause problems in your present union.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't forget to enjoy yourself today. Remember, all work and no play isn't good for anyone. You need to find an outlet that will satisfy your needs.

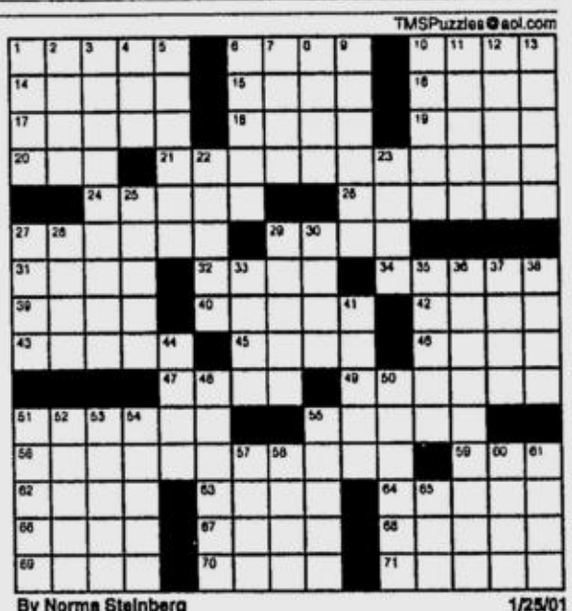
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Home-improvement projects should be at the top of your list. You can save some money if you ask friends and family to pitch in and help. You will be satisfied with your achievements.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your emotional life will go downhill if you continue to play both ends against the middle. Social activities will be fun, but you must not be overindulgent or too flirtatious.

Birthday Baby: You are a little charmer. You are intellectual, quick and full of great ideas. You will stand out in a crowd and project the image of a leader. You have the type of savvy that promotes popularity.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

1/25/01

ACROSS
1 Sousa piece
6 Blow used to rebuff a pass
10 Jug handles
14 Hawaiian hi
15 Make a point
16 Supplication
17 Underground worker
18 Lends a hand
19 Summon
20 Fire residue
21 Two guys who are Mario's dad?
24 Kukla's friend
26 One Jackson
27 Forever
29 Jole of CNN
31 Turnpike, e.g.
32 Zhivago's love
34 Cavalryman's weapon
39 With reference to
40 Levels
42 Appropriate moment
43 Failed to
45 On pins and needles
46 Soprano Gluck
47 Continental prefix
49 Narrative song
51 Gas giant
55 Inane
56 Two guys with Goldie Hawn?
59 Roast beef au __
62 Cut and splice
63 In the near future
64 __ Jaw, Sask.
66 Rub over
67 Tickle Me __.
68 Field of action
69 Prognosticator
70 Bambi's folks
71 Ryan of no-hitters

DOWN
1 Cradle rocker
2 Baba and MacGraw
3 Two guys from Mayberry?
4 Revolutionary Guevara
5 Almost not
6 Alan Ladd classic
7 Tender cut
8 Gibb or Williams
9 Club-shaped tool
10 Disney World draw
11 Texas landmark
12 Kind of race
13 Spanish beat
22 Church passage
23 Painter Holbein
25 Carrying a burden
27 Not interesting
28 Ms. Anderson
29 I believe: Lat.
30 Dangle
33 Assert
35 To any extent
36 Two guys who are the Plano Man?
37 Austen novel
38 Peruse
41 Ms. Thorndike
44 Guam or Yukon: abbr.
48 Brand new
50 __ Brothers Band
51 Turns obliquely
52 Actor Murphy
53 Rubbish
54 Absolute
55 Toledo man
57 Fish choice
58 Vague amount
60 Annapolis sch.
61 Connery or Penn
65 Spanish gold

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	C	I	F	I		S	L	U	M		G	O	Y	A
K	A	R	A	T		E	A	S	E		A	R	A	B
I	V	A	N	T	H	E	T	E	R	R	I	B	L	E
S	Y	N	C		O	D	E			I	N	S	E	T
			I	O	N	E		S	Y	N	E			
	A	L	F	R	E	D	T	H	E	G	R	E	A	T
A	B	O	U	T			R	O	N	S		M	I	A
C	A	R	L		C	R	E	W	S		C	A	L	L
D	S	C		S	H	I	N			O	R	I	E	L
C	H	A	R	L	E	S	T	H	E	B	A	L	D	
			E	Y	R	E		A	D	I	T			
L	I	E	G	E			A	V	A		E	E	R	O
E	D	W	A	R	D	T	H	E	M	A	R	T	Y	R
V	E	E	R		O	V	E	N		R	E	T	A	R
Y	A	R	D		T	A	M	S		E	D	E	N	S

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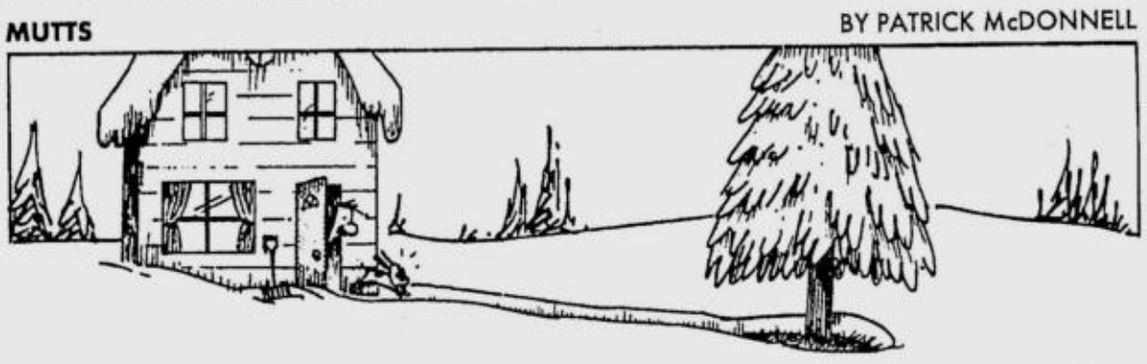
ANSWER ON MONDAY

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK NI TITO BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

THEY WRITE THE SCRIPTS

Mary Ann Bautista's prize-winning screenplays get noticed

By Nestor U. Torre

YOUNG TV-FILM scriptwriters need help early in their careers to get established in the field, so we're starting a new series of features on promising new screenwriters, to make it easier for them to get the attention of the industry's power brokers, its producers, directors and major stars:

THE first screenwriting workshop offered by the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines resulted in the emergence of an impressive number of prizewinners, led by second-placer Mary Ann A. Bautista and third-placer Jerry B. Gracio.

Involvement

Right after they won in the foundation's annual screenwriting competition, Mary Ann's script, "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo" was bought by Star Cinema, and she started her involvement in the exciting *and* confounding world of local TV and film.

Before taking up scriptwriting, Mary Ann was an advertising account executive. She wanted to transfer to the agency's creative department, but her boss didn't think she would do well there.

To convince him otherwise, she joined the film foundation's workshop. When she won in the national screenwriting competition, she succeeded in proving her "doubting" boss wrong. But she had come to love scripting so much that she no longer had to urge to go back to advertising.

As Mary Ann continued to hone her skills, she learned how to write under pressure. One time, somebody else's script turned out to be woefully undertime at only 26 pages, so she had to write an additional 20 pages, right then and there!

Second place

Mary Ann says she was "shocked" when her script won second place in the contest, over a hundred other entries. But her work must have had something about it that impressed the judges, who were veteran film producers, directors and screenwriters. What was it?

"Some of them said they liked the characters, who were young and with-it. About the story, they said they appreciated its different perspective on a Filipino wedding," Mary Ann recalls.

The filmmakers who had positive things to say about the prize-winning script included Olive Lamasan, Joey Reyes and Michael de Mesa. But actors' scheduling problems eventually put the project on hold.

Finalist

Next, Mary Ann entered the Pitchmart scripting competition, where she became one of the finalists. Then, she was invited to join Star Cinema's Project Development Group, which met regularly to discuss stories for future films for the leading movie studio.

She found her year-long stint with the group challenging and fulfilling, and learned a lot about filmmaking in the process.

Some insights: "The director has the ability to make or break a script, and to make it believable. Most of the time, a script undergoes many changes before it ends up as a finished film. Sometimes, the stars come in with their own inputs on the story. And there are image restrictions on what they can and can't do."

Mini-series

Moving on, Mary Ann wrote for ABS-CBN's mini-series "Nagmamahal Pa Rin Sa 'Yo," starring Pops Fernandez, Albert Martinez and Gary Estrada. Aside from writing an entire episode on her own, she was also the writer on the set, doing revisions whenever they were needed. This taught her how to write fast *and* well, something not easy to do for any writer.

As Mary Ann continued to hone her skills, she learned how to write under pressure. One time, somebody else's script turned out to be woefully undertime at only 26 pages, so she had to write an additional 20 pages, right then and there!

Patience

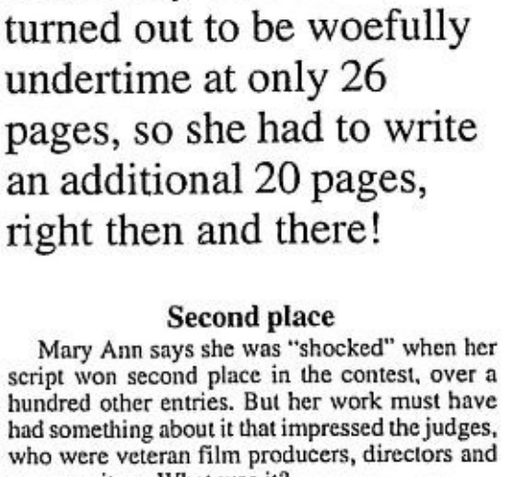
Then Mary Ann started writing for "Verano," Phillip's Salvador's weekly action-drama TV show, for which she did a total of five scripts. During her two-season stint with the popular program, she "developed patience in terms of being able to make any number of revisions, and learned how to write action sequences and how to inject special effects into a script."

On the film front, producer Robbie Tan is interested in Mary Ann's movie script, "Love Kita, Mahal Ka Niya," a finalist in another screenwriting competition.

Roy Iglesias, who's a member of Viva Films' creative committee, has asked her to do some concepts for the movie company. And another producer is reading her script about mistresses.

Other TV-film producers can get in touch with the outstanding young scriptwriter at tel. no. 851-4494. No crank callers, please!

BAUTISTA. Consistent top winner or finalist in national scriptwriting competitions.



CHAN. Highest-paid Asian in Hollywood.

Tom . . . (From page F1)

But Chan's fee paled in comparison to what his "Rush Hour, 2" co-star, Chris Tucker, was making—$20 million! Making the fee even more impressive was the fact that, for making the first "Rush Hour" movie, Tucker was paid "only" $3 million.

Other multi-million dollar earners: Matt Damon, $5.5 million for "All the Pretty Horses." Tobey Maguire, $4 million for "Spider Man." Jet Li, $5.2 million for "The Green Hornet." Rupert Everett, $4 million for "Unconditional Love."

Female stars

What about the female stars? Julia Roberts rates $20 million per movie. Sharon Stone is getting $15 for doing "Basic Instinct, 2." But that's a special fee because many viewers are looking forward to seeing the sequel to the "shocking" hit.

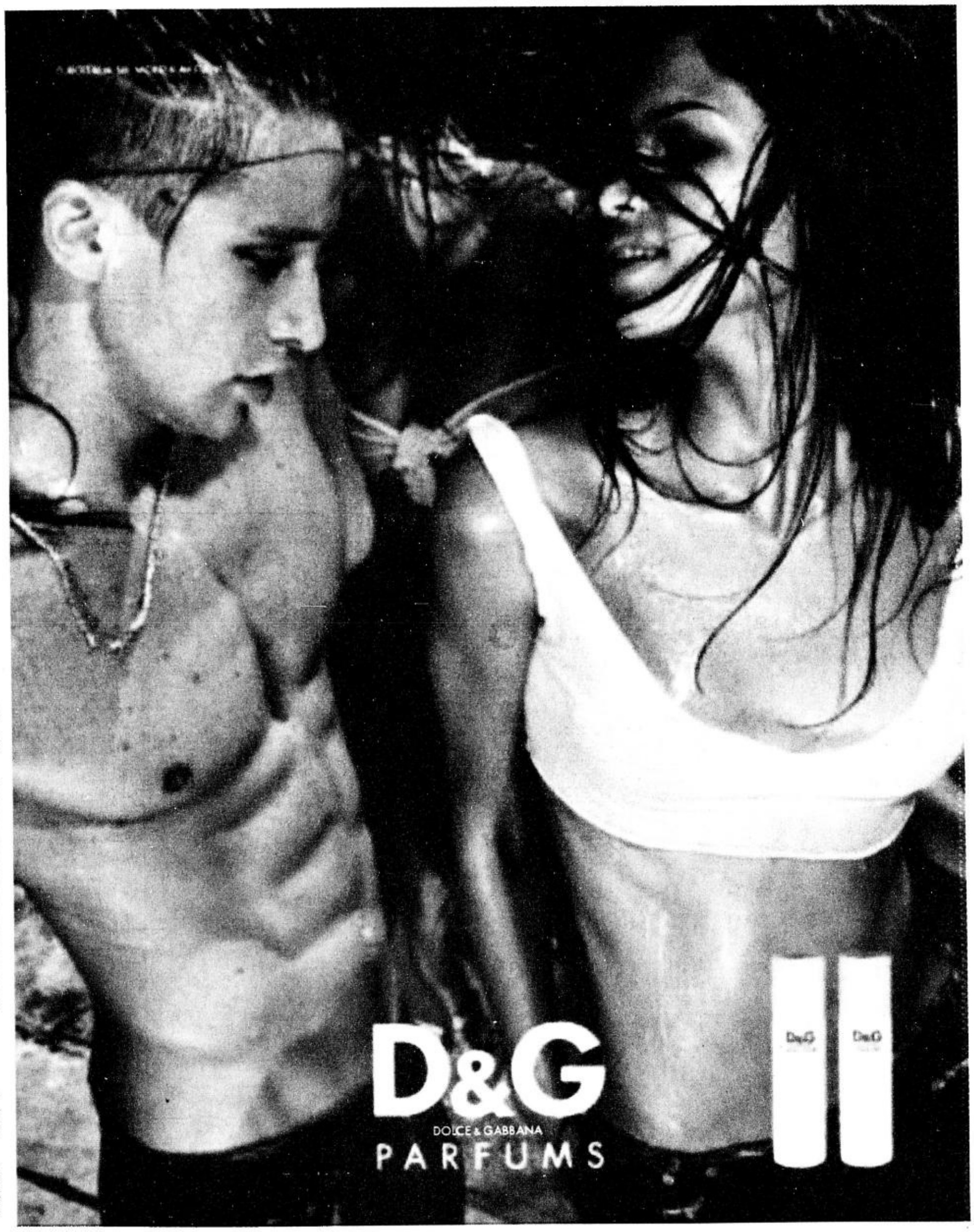
On the other hand, Cameron Diaz is also rating a $15 million fee for her latest starrer, "The Sweetest Thing," and that's her current standard tab.

What about Julienne Moore, Anthony Hopkins' co-star in "Hannibal"? She got $3 million for acting in the film, as opposed to Hopkins' $10 million.

Contrasting figures

It's contrasting figures like those that raise the hackles of feminist activists in Hollywood, who are working hard to make acting fees more equitable by overcoming the gender bias that is still operative in the world's filmmaking capital.

What do other female stars make? Ashley Judd, $6 million for "Animal Husbandry." Renee Zellweger, $4 million for "Bridget Jones' Diary." And Leelee Sobieski, $1 million for "The Glass House."



RDS
ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE
GALLERIA - ERMITA

'Happy Cooking' launched on March 15

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

MANY people come up to me and say, "I will never learn how to cook—maybe I was out on a picnic when they were giving away talents in cooking!" I believe otherwise. My belief is that the level of someone's cooking is dependent on the kind of recipe he makes.

Cycle

I always tell them, "Cooking is a cycle." For example, if a beginner is preparing *adobo* and serves it to his guests, and a polite guest says, "Where did you have your hair done, or *paano mo ginawa itong paella mo*?," that's the end of his cooking career. On the other hand, if a new cook does the same dish using a good recipe and the response is, "What restaurant did you buy this *adobo* from, this is delicious!," that comment boosts his confidence and seals his future in the kitchen.

To me, the choice of recipe spells success or failure for an amateur cook. A good recipe not only gives self-assurance, it also encourages you to cook more. With continued practice comes confidence and skill in the art of cooking.

Waiter

I learned how to cook while I was a waiter in our Philippine restaurant in Paris. The recipes were good enough to impress diners, whose positive comments encouraged me to cook even more.

Over the years, I have come up with hundreds of recipes both for personal use or for my cooking show. Armed with dozens of cookbooks and various CD roms, I have created my own versions of my recipes. I have tried and tested all of them and I am confident enough to share them now.

"Happy Cooking" is my very first cookbook. It just came out recently. It is a compilation of most of my recipes that I am confident will help even the amateur cook to boost his or her kitchen confidence level.

New dishes

For experienced cooks, it is a list of new dishes that can be added to their repertoire of possibly overused dishes. My recipes are easy to do, the ingredients are inexpensive, they are easy to find and, according to my taste, delicious. If you know how to read and follow instructions, it's as good as done.

I always tell anyone wanting to learn how to cook, "Prepare and portion your ingredients in front of you and arrange them according to use, and the rest is a matter of simple assembly."

The cookbook has many sections: appetizers, soups, beef, pork, chicken, seafoods, pastas and noodles, desserts, etc.

I always tell my televiewers, "Substitute main meats with other main meats"—pork for chicken or beef, seafood for chicken, etc. Experiment!

My cookbook is ring-bound, so it can be made to stand for easy reading while cooking.

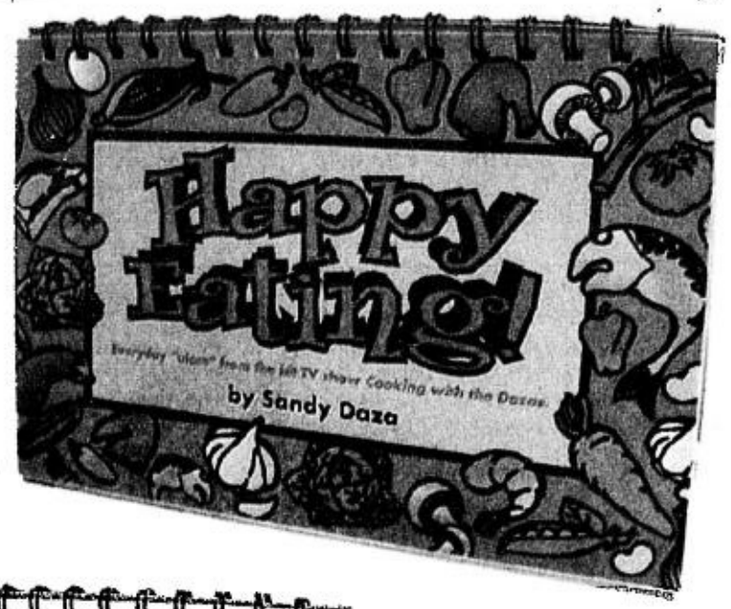
Publisher

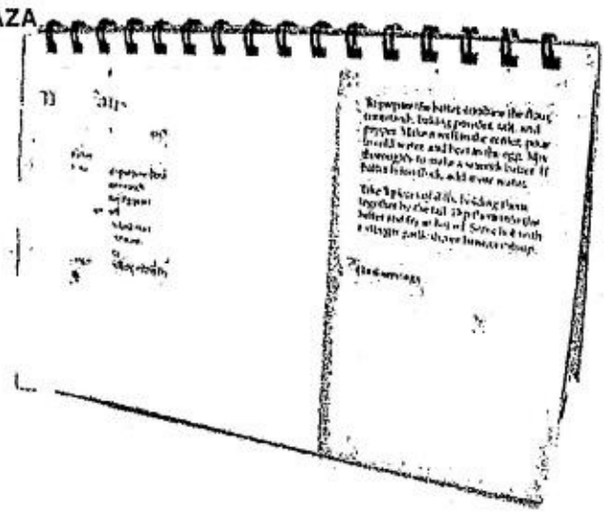
The publisher is my pretty and talented friend, Ms. Liana Romulo. Without her, this cookbook would still be an idea waiting to get actualized. With her help, we're finally launching it this Thursday, March 15, sponsored by San Miguel Foods.

The most important to many is the price. My cookbook costs only P389. Call 631-1947, 752-3673 or 729-2818, and on weekdays, 636-2796 (office hours).

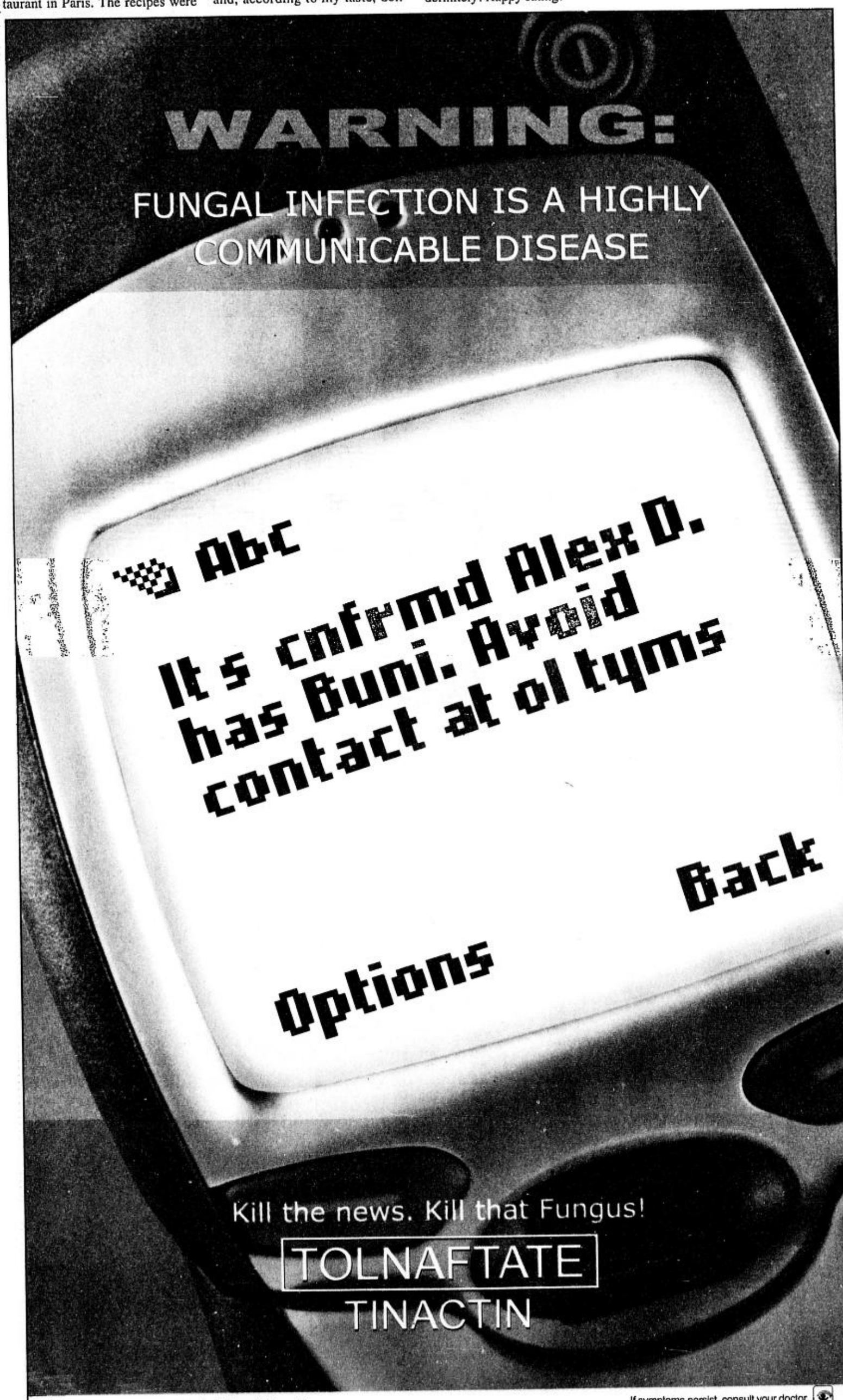
Do I recommend getting it? Most definitely! Happy eating!

SANDY DAZA





DAZA'S first cookbook is a compilation of his best recipes, for both amateur and experienced cooks.



New short workshop films showcased at 'Pelikula at Lipunan'

BY RICA AREVALO

NEW workshop films from the Mowelfund Film Institute (MFI) produced by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Philippine Information Agency and Kodak Phils. premiered at the recent "Pelikula at Lipunan":

Own space

"Palugid" (Margins) by Paolo Villaluna uses a reflexive type of narration where he searches for his own space in society. He brings his viewers to the dark, unaccepted places of gay life. A very disturbing and shocking revelation that will surely cause a lot of reactions from the different sectors.

"Whoman" by Gladys Hernando, 27, a UP Broadcast Communications graduate. She follows the life of Lirio Topacio, an NGO gender-sensitivity trainor. The film's message is that lesbians should not be "labeled" by society but one can see that the subject is still uneasy and has reservations. She even tells the filmmaker that she feels uncomfortable because "*nakatutok ang* camera *at* microphone."

"T" by Tammie Tam tells the story of transvestites and sex workers in Angeles City. Tam, an NGO worker, reveals himself to the viewers by cross-dressing and joining the gay parade, stating his stand on the gay community.

"Batchoyan sa Banwa" (Best Batchoy in Town) by Eileen Ocampo, who teaches values education at the Philippine Science High School in Iloilo. Her film won third prize in the Philippine selection at the Kodak Worldwide Student Program: Cinematographers' Competition 2000.

Touching story

The film is a touching story about a young boy who dreams of going to town to eat *batchoy* with his father, a bamboo furniture maker. The film tackles the simple needs, dreams and peaceful existence of a very loving and naive family in a barrio.

"Dihon" (Form) by Alan Cabalfin. The 16-minute 35mm film is about a middle-aged artist-potter's search for inspiration that leads to his friendship with Nene, a young boy who works as a saltmaker in Miag-aw. It was the Philippines' official entry to the Kodak Worldwide Student Program: Cinematographers' Competition 2000.

"Hulot" (Room) by Ma. Theresa Tejero, a Political Science graduate and research and education volunteer for the Iloilo Women's Center. The 20-minute experimental film is an allegorical revelation of a woman who has been kept within her room for a long time, and how she eventually frees herself from confinement. The use of symbols is very evident in this film.

All films were made by first-time filmmakers who attended an intensive documentary filmmaking workshop on gender issues and sexuality at the MFI in Manila last year. Another workshop on the narrative feature has been brought to Iloilo in cooperation with the West Visayas State University to strengthen regional filmmaking.

Comments

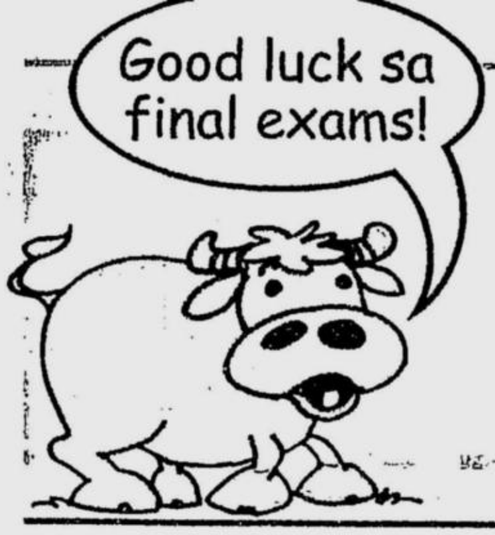
Here are some comments from those who attended the workshop:

Lambert Parong, 28, studied production management in the workshop: "*Pagdating sa* actual shoot, *magkakagulo kapag hindi plinano.* I learned to make the budget, look for locations, ask permission from commercial establishments, arrange the technical requirements and even look for solicitations," he recalls.

Bernard Dacanay, 20, cinematographer of "T": "I felt privileged to have an opportunity to study cinematography. Based on the vision of my director, we developed the visual treatment of 'T.' It was a challenge for me to shoot it night docustyle, since it's all about transvestite sex workers. It tested our resourcefulness *kung paano papasukin yung* image with minimal lighting."

Chris Lete, a graduating UE student who now specializes in 16mm editing: "*Masaya* and exciting, *kasi ito ang* dream *ko. Pagkatapos kong matutunan ang* editing, *kinalimutan ko na ang lahat ng bagay.* At this time, *wala na muna akong gagawin kundi pagbutihin ang* editing!"

TAMMY Tan's "T" is about transvestites and sex workers in Angeles City.



Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2001 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 22

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

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- Your Poetry Page 6
- The Doll Collector Page 9
- Fly, Malaya, Fly! Page 12

Yo! It's Education Week at St. Jo!

A "josephine" gives us a quick peek at how St. Joseph's College of QC rolls Pupils' Day, Teachers' Day, and a whole bunch of contests into one fun-filled week of learning

BY STEPHANIE C. FERRER
GRADE 6
ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OF QUEZON CITY

IT WAS Feb. 19. A Monday morning. I was scared and excited at the same time. The first day of Education Week was Pupil's Day and selected Grades 4-6 pupils were going to take over the work of teachers, supervisors and staff. I am in the sixth grade and was one of the student teachers.

My subjects were Christian Formation Program for Grade 5 and Home Economics for Grade 4. That day I learned that being a teacher is REALLY hard.

Sore feet

My first class was quiet, my second one was just OK and my last one was really noisy! My feet were also killing me because we weren't supposed to sit (exactly like teachers).

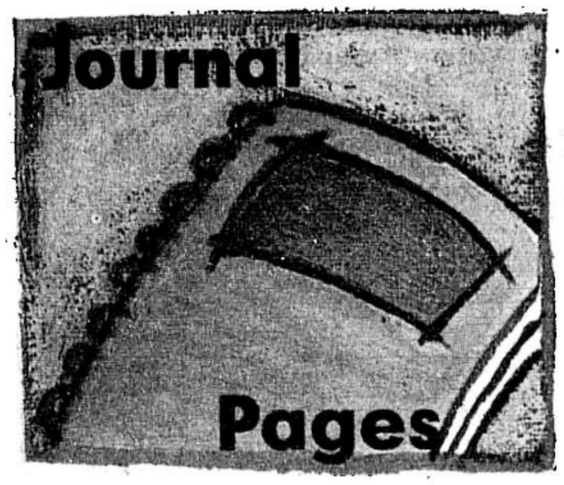
I was so relieved come vacant time. And of course, there was the satisfying feeling that I taught something that will help other students in

Yo!/ p.5

T IS FOR "TECHNO-RIFIC." Grade 4 and 5 pupils do an acrostic about "The Modern Teacher."

REACHING OUT. Students learn how tough a teacher's job really is.

Photos by JOHNNY VILLENA



I think about our forest and animals

BY MARIA RIZZA B. ALBERTO
NEW ERA UNIVERSITY
QUEZON CITY

BEFORE, our forests were full of beautiful flowers, trees, animals, and insects. None of them were endangered. But these days you'll not see eagles soaring over the trees in the provinces.

We've cut down most of our forests. Illegal loggers are everywhere. This is something we should all think about seriously. If there were no trees, there would be no fresh air. And no big, living being would protect us from the scorching heat of the sun. Animals would not be protected, too. Our food sources would be affected.

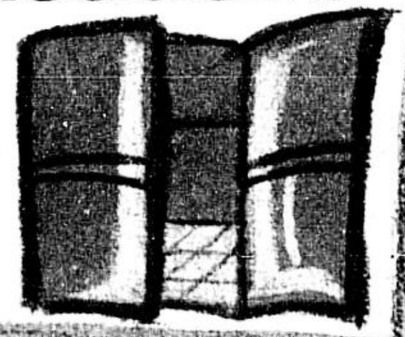
If all our forests and the animals of this earth disappear in the future, then this would be a very bleak world. There would be floods in all cities, and we would be very vulnerable to typhoons. Oil spills and chemicals from factories would pollute the water we drink every day.

We have to stop illegal logging, deforestation, water pollution, and the hunting of endangered animals. Let's not wait for the time that all efforts will be too late.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Dog Story

DEAR Editor,

I'm back again! Let me tell you a story about my dog characters. One, two, three, begin!

Four years ago, three dogs were born. One was named Fichy, one was Aqua, and the other one was named Rainby.

Their parents died because of sickness. The three dogs were separated and grew in different lands. One in the Phoenix sea, one in Digimon world and one in Pokémon world. The three dogs noticed that they each had a bone that looked like it had been broken off a bigger bone. So, they set off to look for the missing pieces of this bone. They were reunited again. —**FELICE J. GAZO, Bacoor, Cavite**

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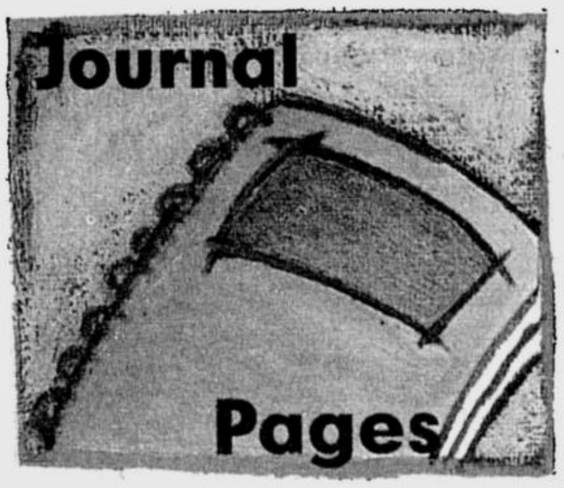

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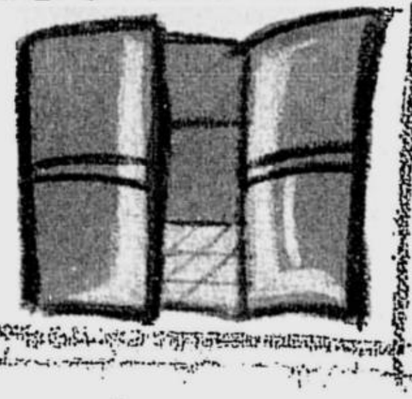

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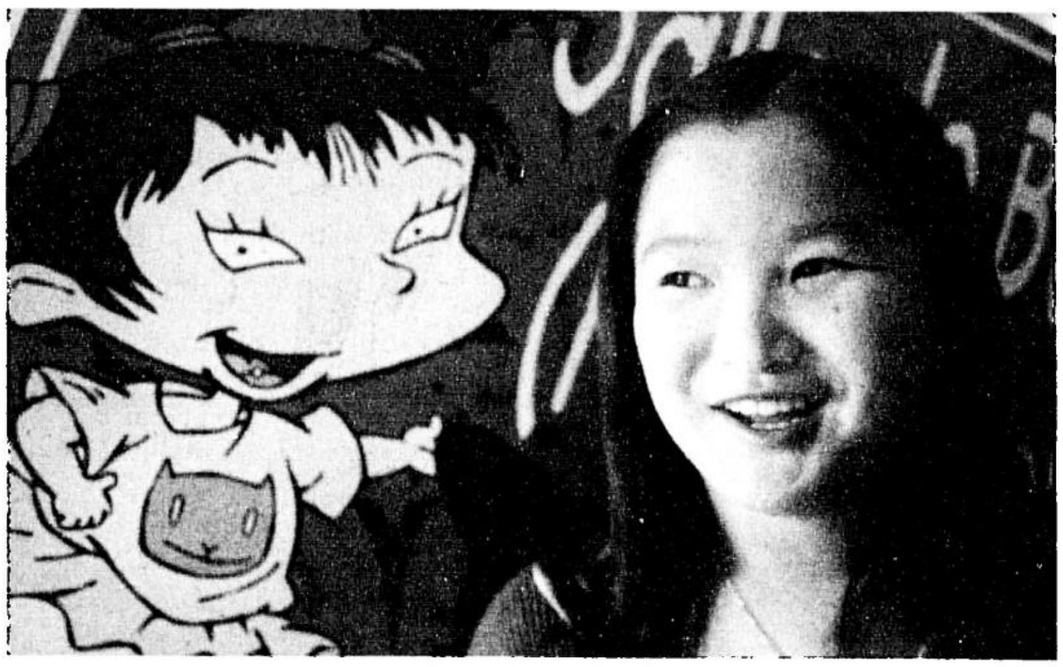
WORLD SCOPE

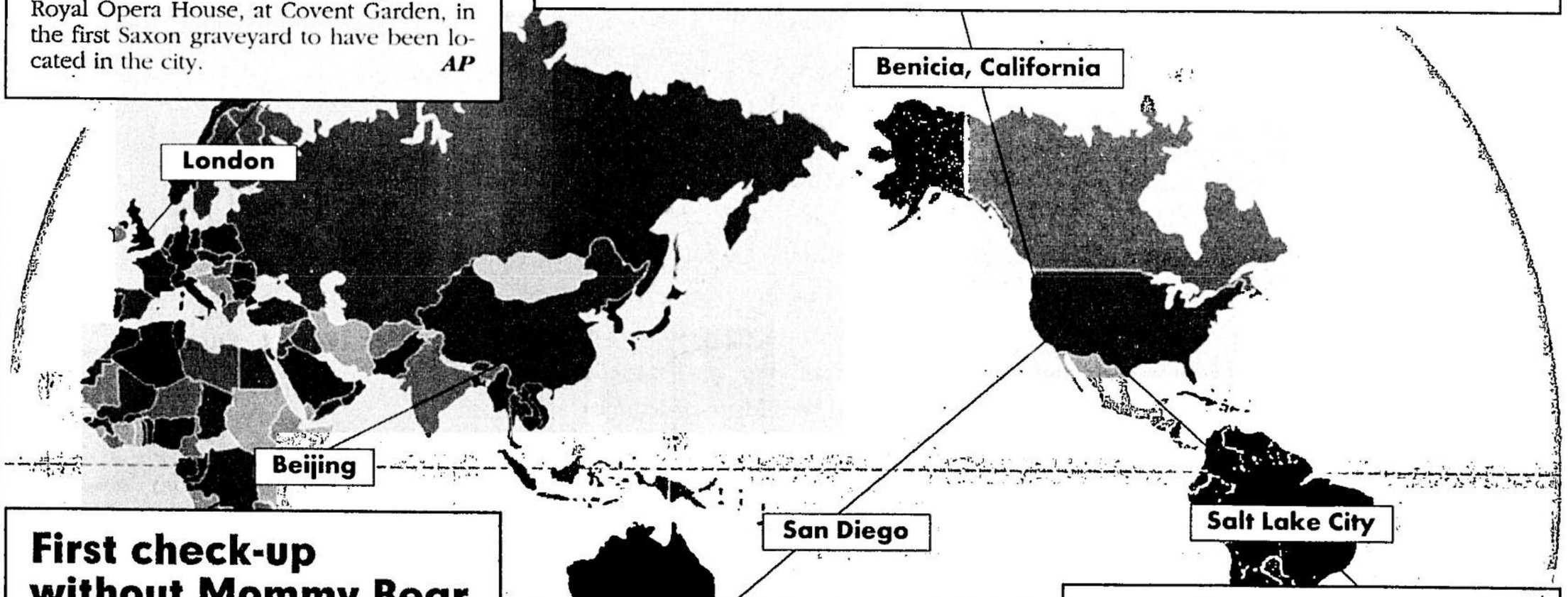
City find

LIZ Goodman, archaeological conservator at the Museum of London, shows a rare 7th century Saxon brooch—the first of its kind to be found in Britain's capital. The brooch is intricately worked with panels of gold and laden with garnets indicating its owner was of great wealth and importance. It was discovered in excavations alongside the Royal Opera House, at Covent Garden, in the first Saxon graveyard to have been located in the city. *AP*



TV Rugrats actress

DIONNE Quan, 22, poses with a picture of Kimi from the "Rugrats in Paris" movie in her California home. Quan, who is blind, is the voice of Kimi in the movie and in the animated television series. *AP*



First check-up without Mommy Bear

A TWO-month-old polar bear cub squirms

after receiving a check-up and vaccinations by the zoo veterinarian at Hogle Zoo. The examination revealed that the cub is a female and she weighs 4.3 kg. It was the first time the cub, which was born Dec. 12, had been separated from her mother, 23-year-old Chinook. The cub is Chinook's 10th. *AP*

Baby talk

HUA Mei, left, and Bai Yun, the mother-daughter giant panda duo at the San Diego Zoo, spend their last few hours together playing. Starting Feb. 23, the bears were displayed separately. This was done to complete the weaning process for 18-month-old Hua Mei, and allow 9-year-old Bai Yun another shot at another baby this spring. *AP*

Cloned and alone

VISITORS to an exhibition about high technology look at a goat cloned by Chinese scientists. The goat, named Yang Yang, was the second goat to be cloned in China and the only one remaining alive. The exhibition focuses on the achievements of Project 863, a high-tech research project approved by late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in 1986. *AP*

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Potter update!

OFFICIAL WEBSITE! The movie is yet to be released but you can take a peek of its progress in the official website: www.harrypotter.com. Warner Bros. is inviting other fan-managed "Harry Potter" sites to link to the community through the: www.harrypotter.com hub, and in turn, WB will provide unique "Harry Potter" images and icons for use on their sites.

CAN'T WAIT! Here's a sneak peek at one of the scenes of Harry Potter, the movie.

Contest

BE A MUSEUM CONSULTANT. You read it right! Museo Pambata is currently in search of 12 young kids ages 8-12 who will join the brainstorming team for the development and relaunching of some of its theme rooms. You can give your ideas how can the museum be more kid-friendly. Those who are interested can come to Museo Pambata on March 24, 10 a.m. for initial screening session, and for the lucky applicants, a final interview is slated on March 31. Aside from being a junior museum consultant, the selected ones will receive the "I am a BrainChild" shirt, a free membership in the Museo Pambata Club plus other exciting privileages. For more important details call up 523-1797 to 98. Museo is located at Roxas Boulevard, corner South Drive, Manila.

Workshops

SUMMER WORKSHOPS. Summer vacation's just around the corner, here are some cool things to make yourself busy. Join the Sacred Heart School's line-up of activities for artists and sports buff. Join the art workshop and develop your talent in painting. There's also the magic workshop where you can learn tricks to mystify your family and friends. And for those kids ages 5-12 who want to learn Taekwondo, join in and learn the basics, plus self-control, discipline, confidence and respect for others. For info, call the nearest Sacred Heart School branch: San Lorenzo, Makati—810-8506, 894-2273, 815-3058; Malabon—363-3154; CAC-Shangri-La Plaza Mall—636-1227, 631-9759; CAC-Forbes—840-5493, 840-2632; CAC-Dela Rosa—810-8997, 810-8890; Sun Valley—823-1348, 776-0312; Goodwill Bookstore, Glorietta—810-5922; 813-4956 to 57.

WORKSHOPS AT MUSEO. Kids can develop their natural curiosity and creativity in workshops this April at the Escuela sa Museo. There will be sessions in creative writing, oral communication, drawing, mixed media, oil painting, pastel, sculpture, and watercolor. Classes will be held weekdays or Saturdays at the Ayala Museum. For details call Ms Ethel Villafranca at 812-1191 to 97 local 130 or send an email to edvillafranca@ayalamuseum.com. Or you can also drop by the Ayala Museum, Makati Avenue, Makati City, from Tuesday to Saturday at 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

TALENTED TOTS. Watch the children of Kinder minds as they perform their own version of "Noah's Ark." See them sing, danceand act their way to into your hearts at the Abelardo Hall, College of Music, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City on March 18 at 10 a.m. For inquiries call up 415-9333 or 413-6996.

HELLO YOUNG WRITERS! Wanna learn how to write better? Tower Book House is inviting young scribes to join their Saturday workshops. Call 815-6925 or 815-4638 for more details. Tower Book House is at the Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Exhibit

ASIAN CARTOONISTS. Do you like looking through editorial cartoons in newspapers? If you do, you should go look at "Asia in the 1990s in Cartoons," a collection of 90 funny and satirical cartoons by cartoonists from all over Asia. The exhibit runs from March 7 to April 15 at the Shaw Side Lobby at the Ground Floor of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City. Questions? Call 811-6155. Hey, admission is free!

Cable Picks

DOGS WITH JOBS. Ever saw a dog that helps carpenters? Or dogs that help at the gas station? Have a chance to see our wonder canine pals take charge in National Geographic Channel's feature on dogs all Wednesdays of March at 9 p.m.

WALK IN THE DESERT. Join British travel writer Stephen Backshall as he tackles the tough terrain of the Negev desert on foot in the program "Walk in the Desert" on Monday at 9:30 p.m. at NGC.

Yo! It's Education Week. . . (from page 1

their journey in life. When I arrived home I went straight to bed.

A program break

After the Leadership Training on Tuesday for the class and club presidents and vice presidents, Wednesday was another exciting day. There was a program and different contests, like a Spelling Bee and a Rhyme Interpretation Contest at the Mater Dei Auditorium or MDA where Karlo Rafael Montenegro, a Grade 5 student, and myself were the emcees. I was kinda scared that I'd make a mistake but fortunately the program went smoothly.

What was happening backstage? Ms Nora Sison, our Language Supervisor, was writing our script, Karlo was always in front of the electric fan, and I was. . .watching the program and walking around.

And I had to compete, too. . .

After that, we went back to our classrooms to eat lunch. There was an Essay Writing Contest the rest of the day and I was a contestant. But somehow I knew that my old friend, Anna Dela Cruz would win (she's the one who encouraged me to try reading pocketbooks).

Akk! What should I wear?

By Thursday morning, I was running out of clothes! I had been wearing civilian clothes nearly all week and Ms Sison, Karlo and I were back emceeing again at the MDA.

A Monologue Contest was held for the Grade 4, an Oration Contest for Grade 5 and a Story Telling Contest for selected Grade 6 students. For the lower grade levels, there was a Chamber Theater for Grade 2 and the Poetry in Mime for the Grade 3. There were only 1st prize winners for the Essay Writing Contest for Grades 4, 5 and 6.

Friday was Teacher's Day. Grade VI pupils wrote messages to the teachers on manila paper and it were displayed outside the classroom and in the corridors.

Teachers' Day

When Ms Alice Labilles, our adviser, arrived she was showered with a million flowers, balloons, kisses and greetings! You'd think there was a Flower Festival. . .make that a Rose Festival in our classroom. Then we all went to the MDA for a program.

There were many presentations by the pupils such as an acrostic, a dance, songs, a piano piece and there was also me! I was going to declaim an essay and I was very nervous! Even though I memorized the essay to perfection two weeks ago I felt like I was going to forget all of it on-stage!

Mental block on stage

When it was my turn to perform, I suddenly forgot some of my lines! Then I saw the big smile Ms Labilles had on her face and I stopped for about five to seven seconds.

Good thing I was able to remember it immediately and went on. There were gifts given to teachers, supervisors, and guidance counselors using the contribution of the pupils. The program ended with the song "You" sung by the Grade School Pupils Government and class presidents who gave flowers and chocolates to the teachers.

And of course, there were dancing teachers

After that, the students were all standing up to go back to their classrooms then we were all very surprised when the teachers went on-stage and danced "YMCA." One teacher said that it was better than the other Teacher's Day programs the years before.

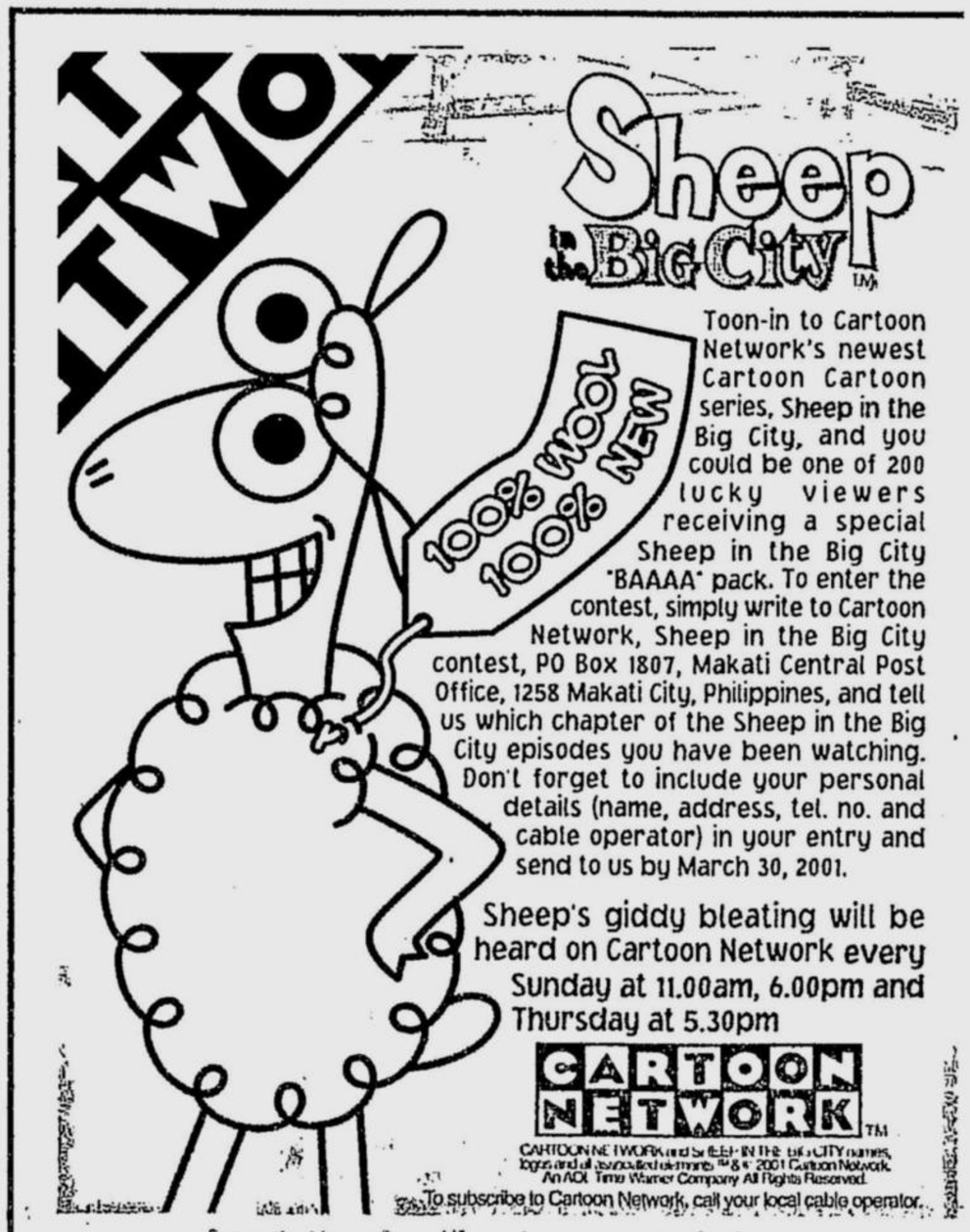
What I learned

The week was very fun and eventful and I learned many things: sportsmanship, victory, defeat, that teachers are really fun to be with, and so much more. I also met new people during the five-day affair.

It was the most active week I ever had at school. I know I'll never forget it and the teachers, supervisors, and classmates who made it a success. I know that I'll graduate this March and this was the last Education Week in my elementary life, but I will always treasure it, and the people I celebrated it with, in my heart.

OOPSY!

We had a little caption switch-eroo on the front page of our Feb. 24 issue. The top photo is of the UP Cherubim and Seraphim, while the gals in green are from De La Salle-Zobel. Sorry kids!



Books

BY JESSICA JOYCE B. CARASO

What books do I love best?
Sweet Valley High
is a cut above the rest
With Jessica and Elizabeth
who are twin sisters
And their cat-allergic father

I also like Nancy Drew
And her adventurous trip
to the zoo

I also enjoy the Bible
Then I remember God
and his parables

But for now, nothing beats
Harry Potter for me
With its dragons, muggles
and Dumbledore

There are so many good
books to read
But don't forget your
household deeds.

***Jessica** studies at Miriam College Grade School in Quezon City.*

One at People I

BY ANNA ELVIRA S. ARCELLAN

Filipinos willingly gathered
At the historical Edsa shrine
To speak for justice
To fight for the truth

Like brothers and sisters
That's how we treated one and
No one was a stranger
All were heroes of our natio

History repeated itself
But once again, Filipinos are proud of
We have done a peaceful revol
That ended with a successful res

Edsa shrine is a place to treas
The victory of the Filipinos will be remem
Proud Filipinos are we
From the grasps of injustice, we a

***Anna** is a Grade 6 student of Miriam Colleg*

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
STEPH BRAVO
AND
ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Environment

BY MARIANNE THERESE P. PADILLA

The sun is bright
And it gives light.
A light that's shining and guiding
The path we are walking.

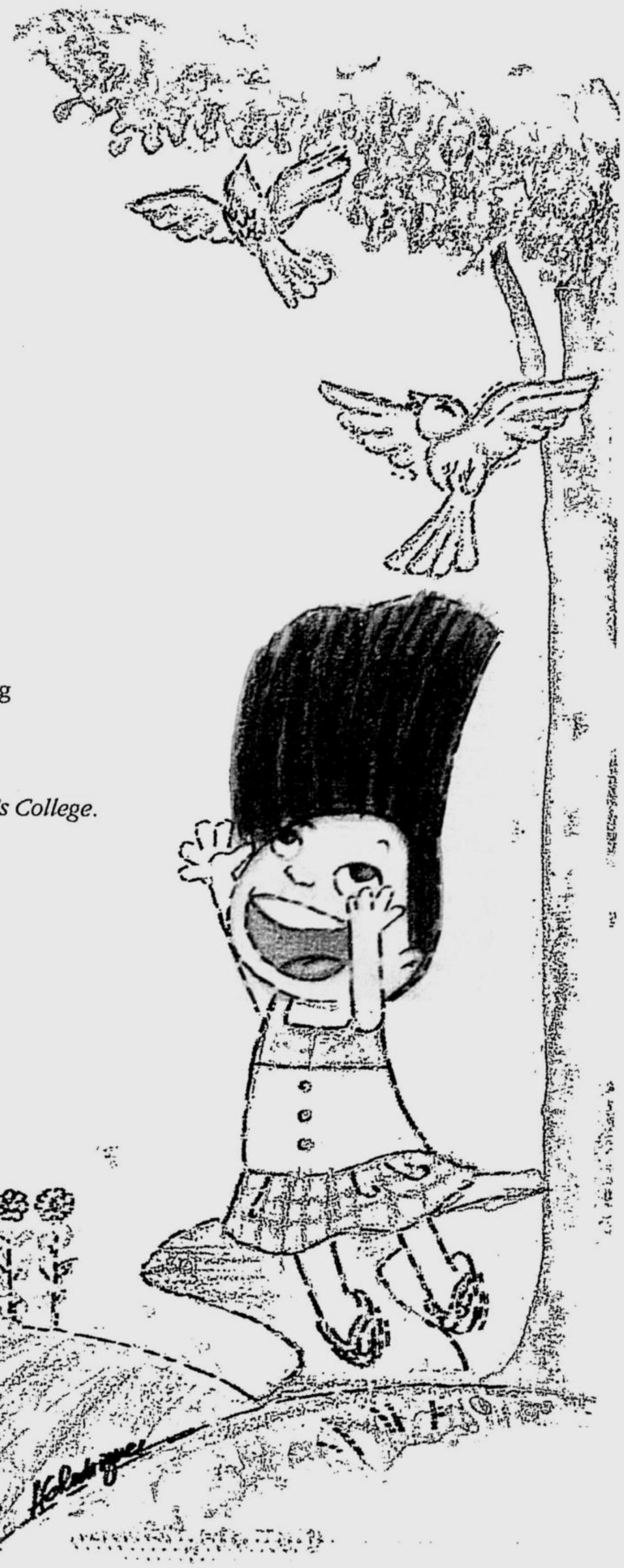
The sky is blue
And the wind blew.
My hair is blown by the air.
It swings here and there.

We sow a seed
To get what we need.
The flowers bloom
The people groom.

The water is clean
And the grass is green.
The trees are tall.
If they are cut, they will fall.

The birds are flying
In their nests, they are happily living
Their song is an encouragement
For us to care for our environment.

Marianne *studies at St. Scholastica's College.*



Power 2

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e Grade School.

The Thought-Scribbler

Everything Rosa Angela Veronica Lapeña thinks of goes on paper

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

SHE'S walking and walking and walking and walking then ping! Ro-An thinks up an especially interesting thought. She repeats the thought over and over in her head until she finds a piece of paper on which to write it down.

"When I was small, my *lola* got me used to writing my thoughts," says 10-year-old Ro-An Lapeña whose first name happens to be Rosa, just like her *lola*. "She would tell me, you don't have to really write. Just think and put it on paper."

Make little scribbles in other words? Ro-An smiles and nods her head, "Yes."

Sometimes, though, Ro-An puts her thoughts together in an essay, like the one she wrote last year for a contest among Benedictine schools in the Philippines.

Ro-An's entry, called "The Jubilee Paradox," was chosen to represent the entire St. Scholastica's College Grade School.

"A paradox is something you don't really understand. It goes round and round and it doesn't really have an end," Ro-An explains. Last year, she says, we sang the Jubilee song, which begins with the line, "It's a time of joy, a time of peace..."

Remembering the war in Mindanao, Ro-An asked, "How can it be real joy or real peace when there's a war going on?" She remarks, "It's not really a Jubilee that you look forward to."

"It's kind of confusing," she says finally, "but, probably, if there is no sadness, there wouldn't be happiness."

A little more cheerfully, Ro-An says she has high hopes that the government will be able to help Mindanao—and the rest of the country—from now on. "I know President Gloria would do her best," says Ro-An, "because she knows what the people can do if she doesn't!"

'D SCRIBBLER IS A FIDDLER. Ro-An also knows how to play the violin, the piano, and the recorder. Cool huh?

BETOY JOHNSON

Thoughts become poems

On other days, Ro-An's thoughts get turned into poems. "I think it's a more challenging way to express yourself," she says.

"I usually write about what I see. . .I just look around and I think of a way to describe it," Ro-An adds, "I think a good poem should have a lot of modifiers because it helps the readers imagine what it's like more."

One of Ro-An's very first poems, written when she was 7 years old, goes something like this: "Look out the window and behold the beautiful sight/ Its body is golden yellow and its wings are crimson pink/ its beak a dark shade of grayish blue/ A few moments later, see it disappear behind the mountain/ the dark clouds take its place."

The poem is called "The Disappearing Bird" but can you guess what it's really about? A hundred points to whoever answered, "The sunset!"

For the future, Ro-An is thinking of becoming, maybe, a teacher. "I really like teaching," she says, "I like teaching my younger sister and being a teacher . . .I mean, if you get a job, the best thing to do is to get a job you really like."

A thought for you

No matter what she does later on, Ro-An is pretty sure she'll keep on scribbling whatever else she comes up with. She suggests that other kids try it too, just for fun. "You don't really have to show it to anyone. You can even throw it away afterwards!" she says, giggling, "it's just expressing your thoughts. You don't have to win an award or anything."

Best Lines

Ro-An did win an award, though, the first prize even, for her essay "The Jubilee Paradox." Here are what we think are the best lines in her work. "If these are times of un-peace, why then does the Jubilee song say that it's a time of peace, a time of grace? Perhaps it is because this is how it should be."

"In the first place, why do we sing this song?...We sing it for hope." "One day, God's promise of grace and love reigning in all our hearts will be fulfilled. Have faith."

R U RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a **free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kids 'r' rrific
nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

_____

She/he lives at

_____

and studies at

_____

Her/his contact number is:

_____

Sender's Name: _____

Sender's Age & School: _____

Sender's Address: _____

Sender's Contact No. _____

KNOCK, KNOCK! Who's in Anna's dollhouse?

Hello Dollhouse!

Who says only kids can have fun with dolls? Grown-up Anna Abeleda still does

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

"WHEN I was a kid, I used to want Barbies," says 30-year old Anna Tabita Abeleda, "but at the time, Barbie dolls were very expensive...I was able to get only one doll and I saved up my allowance to buy it."

A few years later, Anna grew up and, for a while, she forgot about wanting to have a doll collection of her own.

"Then my older sister started collecting Star Wars toys," she says, "and when she bought this Darth Vader doll, I wanted to play with it." How old was she then? "Twenty-seven!" Anna reveals cheerfully.

"I wanted to dress Darth Vader up like Ken because I never had a Ken doll before," she continues, giggling a little bit, "I would tell my sister, 'Why didn't you buy Luke Skywalker instead? He's easier to dress up!'"

To which Anna's sister replied, "You can afford a Ken doll now, why don't you buy one?"

That was the best suggestion Anna had ever heard.

Oohhh, a doll-condominium!

Anna, who is a member and one of the soloists of the Philippine Madrigal Singers, a.k.a. the Madz, bought her very first Ken doll while the Madz were on tour in Italy.

"My colleagues would tease me, *'Ano ka ba, Anna, ang laki-laki mo na, naglalaro ka pa nyan!'*" she recalls, laughing.

Even though her fellow singers teased her, when Anna's birthday came around, they each gifted her with all sorts of Barbie accessories, including a complete Barbie bathroom.

"That's how my collection started," she says. Anna started buying other kinds of doll furniture, even if they weren't really made for Barbie, and when she had a whole lot, she and her friends created a homemade doll-condominium out of plywood.

The condo, which is home to around 48 dolls, has a total of 15 wallpapered-and-fully-furnished "rooms" which even have electricity.

"Once a week, I make up situations, I change their clothes and I make thempose," says Anna.

"Sometimes, grown-ups worry too much and the dreams inside them don't get expressed," she adds, "but, you know, grown-ups daydream too...and I think everyone should have fun."

IN ROOM NO. 1. Barbie mom in a fantastic sala set.

IN ROOM NO. 2. Injured Ken? Photos by JOHNNY VILLENA

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

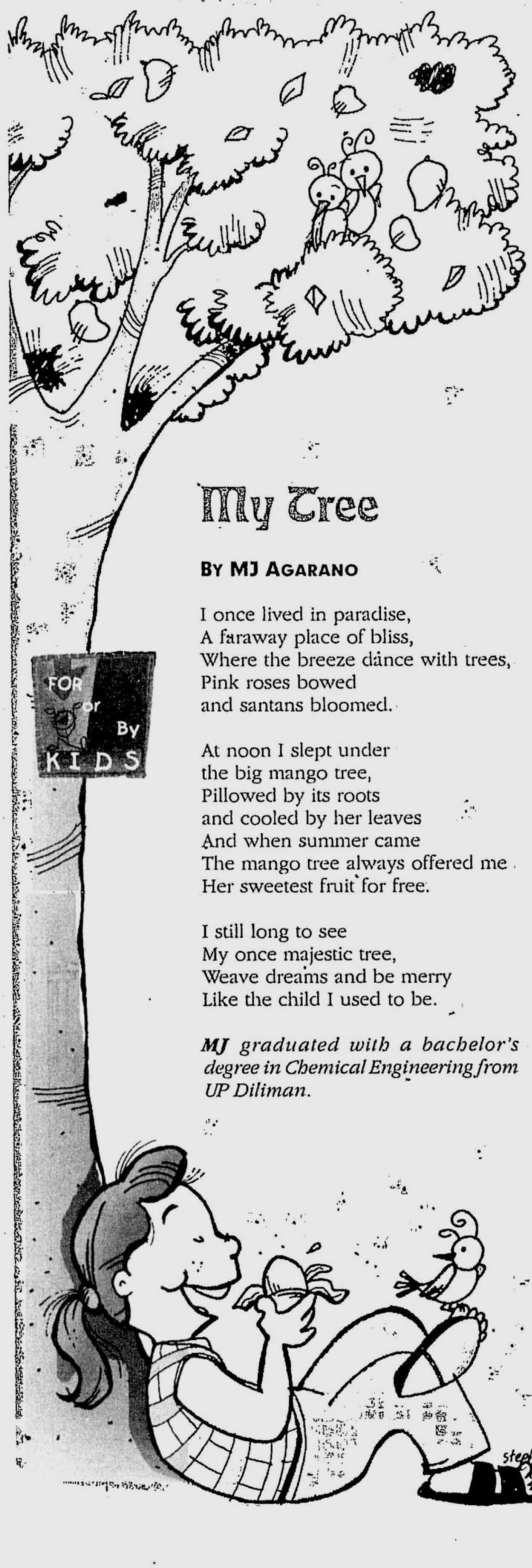
A.K.A. COOL

*Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, **YOU'LL** get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _____.
He/She is ____ years old and is my _____.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1) _____;
2) _____;
3) _____;
4) _____;
and
5) _____.

My nominee lives at _____
_____.
Give him/her a call at _____
_____ or send him/her an e-mail at _____.
By the way, I'm _____
_____.
I'm _____ years old.
My address is
_____.
You may call me at
_____.



FOR or By KIDS

My Tree

BY MJ AGARANO

I once lived in paradise,
A faraway place of bliss,
Where the breeze dance with trees,
Pink roses bowed
and santans bloomed.

At noon I slept under
the big mango tree,
Pillowed by its roots
and cooled by her leaves
And when summer came
The mango tree always offered me
Her sweetest fruit for free.

I still long to see
My once majestic tree,
Weave dreams and be merry
Like the child I used to be.

MJ graduated with a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from UP Diliman.

Spelling Bee (and other Bugs)

A MEASURE of anyone's insect IQ is knowing the correct names of these creepy creatures. Can you pick the right one in each number?

1.	☐	bumblebee	☐	bumbolbee	☐	bubblebee
2.	☐	batterfly	☐	buterfly	☐	butterfly
3.	☐	cikada	☐	cicada	☐	sicada
4.	☐	cackroche	☐	cockroach	☐	cackroach
5.	☐	catterpillar	☐	cutterpillar	☐	caterpillar
6.	☐	weevil	☐	weavil	☐	weevill
7.	☐	cheche fly	☐	chetse fly	☐	tsetse fly
8.	☐	locust	☐	loucust	☐	lowcost
9.	☐	preying mantis	☐	playing mantis	☐	praying mantis
10.	☐	hornette	☐	hornet	☐	hornit
11.	☐	apid	☐	aphid	☐	affid
12.	☐	mosquitos	☐	mosquitoes	☐	mosquiti
13.	☐	coccoon	☐	cocoon	☐	cacoon
14.	☐	imagoo	☐	imagu	☐	imago
15.	☐	chrysalis	☐	krysalis	☐	chrisalys

Answers :

1. bumblebee 6. weevil 11. aphid
2. butterfly 7. tsetse fly 12. mosquitoes or mosquitos
3. cicada 8. locust 13. cocoon
4. cockroach 9. praying mantis 14. imago
5. caterpillar 10. hornet 15. chrysalis

Ratings :

superbrain!
18 - 20

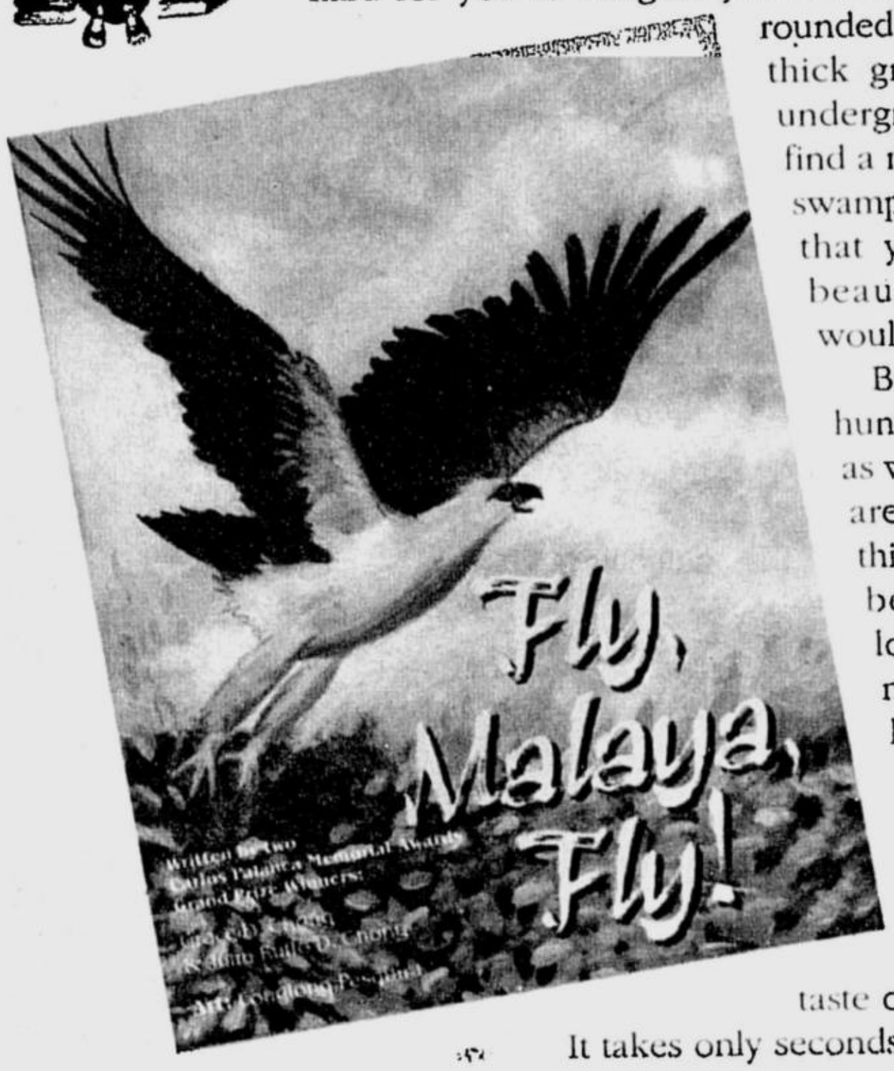
excellent!
14 - 17

good!
8 - 13

Iggy Ipis
BOOK REVIEWS

Fly for Freedom

IF YOU take a look at Longlong Pesquira's paintings of the forest in the storybook "Fly, Malaya, Fly!," it will not be hard for you to imagine you are there. You will feel surrounded by the tall trees, the thick green leaves, the lush undergrowth. You will even find a majestic waterfall and a swamp. It is easy to believe that you would find it all beautiful, as any animal would.



But supposing there are hunters in the same forest as well? In the book, there are three—one tall, one thin, one fat—and all have beady eyes and cruel looks in their faces. It makes all my cockroach legs tremble just to look at them and see how tough they are! They have shot down the young eagle, Malaya, and they are after the taste of eagle meat!

It takes only seconds, a couple of minutes at most, before the hunters arrive at the place where Malaya has fallen. His right wing is wounded and he can barely move. Although it is hard to see because of the pain, he knows that the only way out is up through the trees. Malaya feels trapped, and all he has left to hide in is a memory.

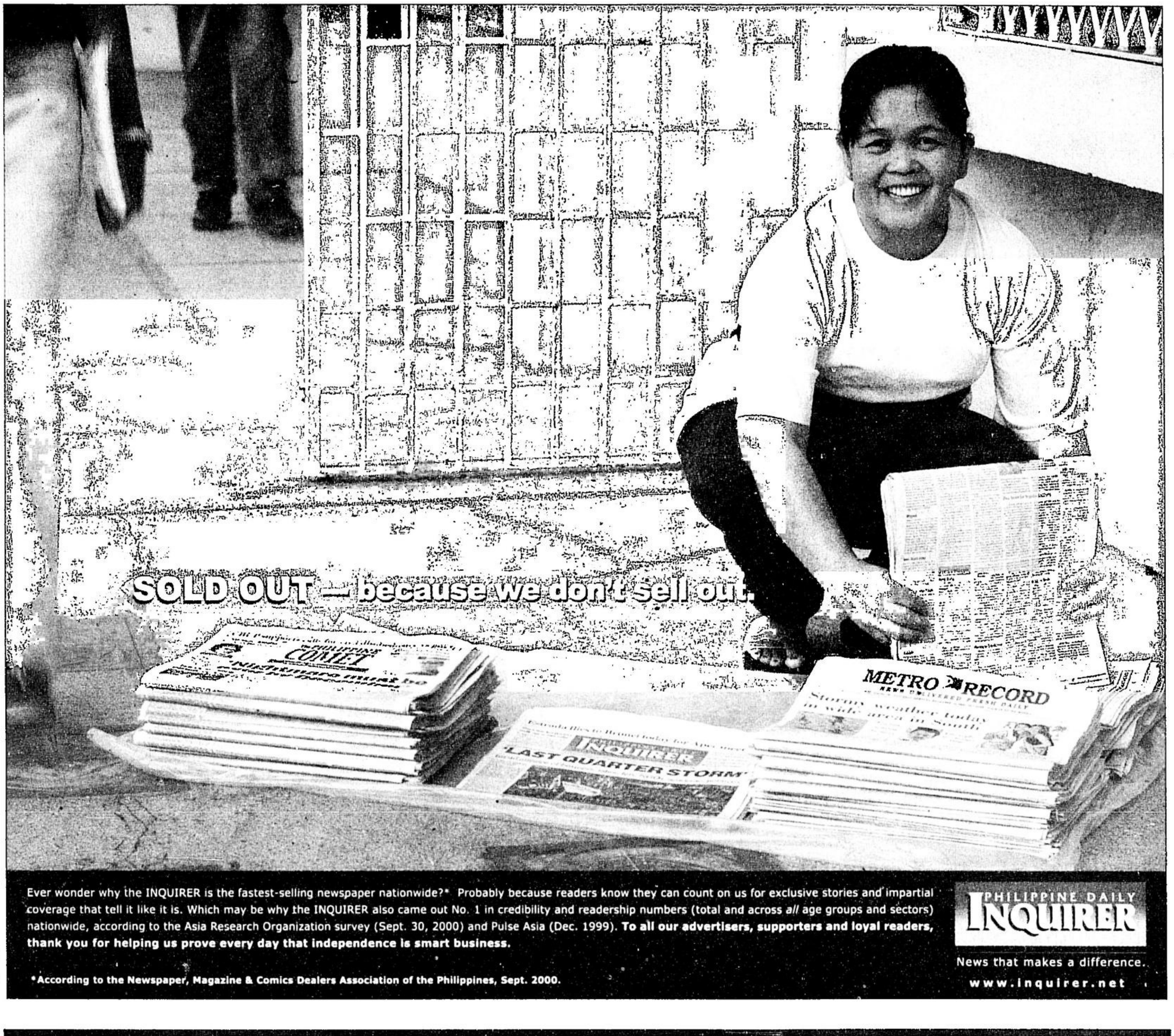
In a flashback, Longlong Pesquira's paintings transport us to the glory of the sky. We might imagine we are flying as well, watching Malaya's mother teaching a very young Malaya how to fly. But we have to remain steady, even as the shots from hunters' guns fire at the eagles. We have to be brave as we witness Malaya's mother cover Malaya with her body, taking the shots herself, and plummeting down.

This dramatic story is written by a mother and son team: Carlos Palanca Memorial Awardees Grace D. Chong and Juan Ruffo D. Chong. It is a story of a mother saving her son's life, not only once, for although Malaya's mother has long been dead, the memory of her saves Malaya once more. We only hope it will keep saving him, and countless of other eagles, from other ruthless hunters. But is there no other help? Will just memories be enough? For so long as there are other lawless hunters, and thoughtless people who cut down the rainforests which are their home, the Philippine eagles may never be truly free.

"Fly, Malaya, Fly!" is published by Dama Juana Publishing (2000) with the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) and Caltex (Philippines), Inc.

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT



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*According to the Newspaper, Magazine & Comics Dealers Association of the Philippines, Sept. 2000.

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News that makes a difference

Joker: Erap extradition empty talk

STORY ON PAGE A2

P15

Hunt on for PAOCTF officer in Dacer case

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC AND TONTON A. ANTOGOP
PDI Visayas Bureau

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has launched a nationwide manhunt for a former official of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) who is allegedly on the

HUNT/ A19

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS

MARCH 11, 2001 ★★ 92 PAGES 8 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 93

TODAY IN THE INQUIRER MAGAZINE
- SIM's special Filipino photographers issue

Gov't, Reds resume talks

Start of negotiations on April 27 in 'foreign neutral venue'

BY DONNA S. CUETO

THE COMMUNIST-LED National Democratic Front announced yesterday that it was resuming peace talks with the government on April 27 in a still undetermined foreign country.

The agreement to reopen formal peace negotiations after a break of nearly two years followed exploratory meetings from March 6 to 9 between government and NDF representatives in the Dutch cities of The Hague and Utrecht.

Sources said the preliminary accord on the resumption of peace talks was hammered out on the same day that Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin died from gunshot wounds inflicted during a clash between government troops and communist guerrillas in Quezon.

"The two parties declare their firm adherence to the principle that the peace negotiations are a continuing process . . . to address the roots of the armed conflict," the NDF said in a press statement from its international headquarters in Utrecht.

The NDF said both sides had agreed to adhere to six other principles and procedures set under previous peace talks.

These included the extension of "immunity guarantees" for their negotiators, the formation of "reciprocal working committees" that would come up with proposed social and economic reforms, and discussions on a human rights agreement.

Malacañang, however, would neither confirm nor deny the NDF announcement, saying it was still awaiting the official report of former Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III, head of the three-member government team.

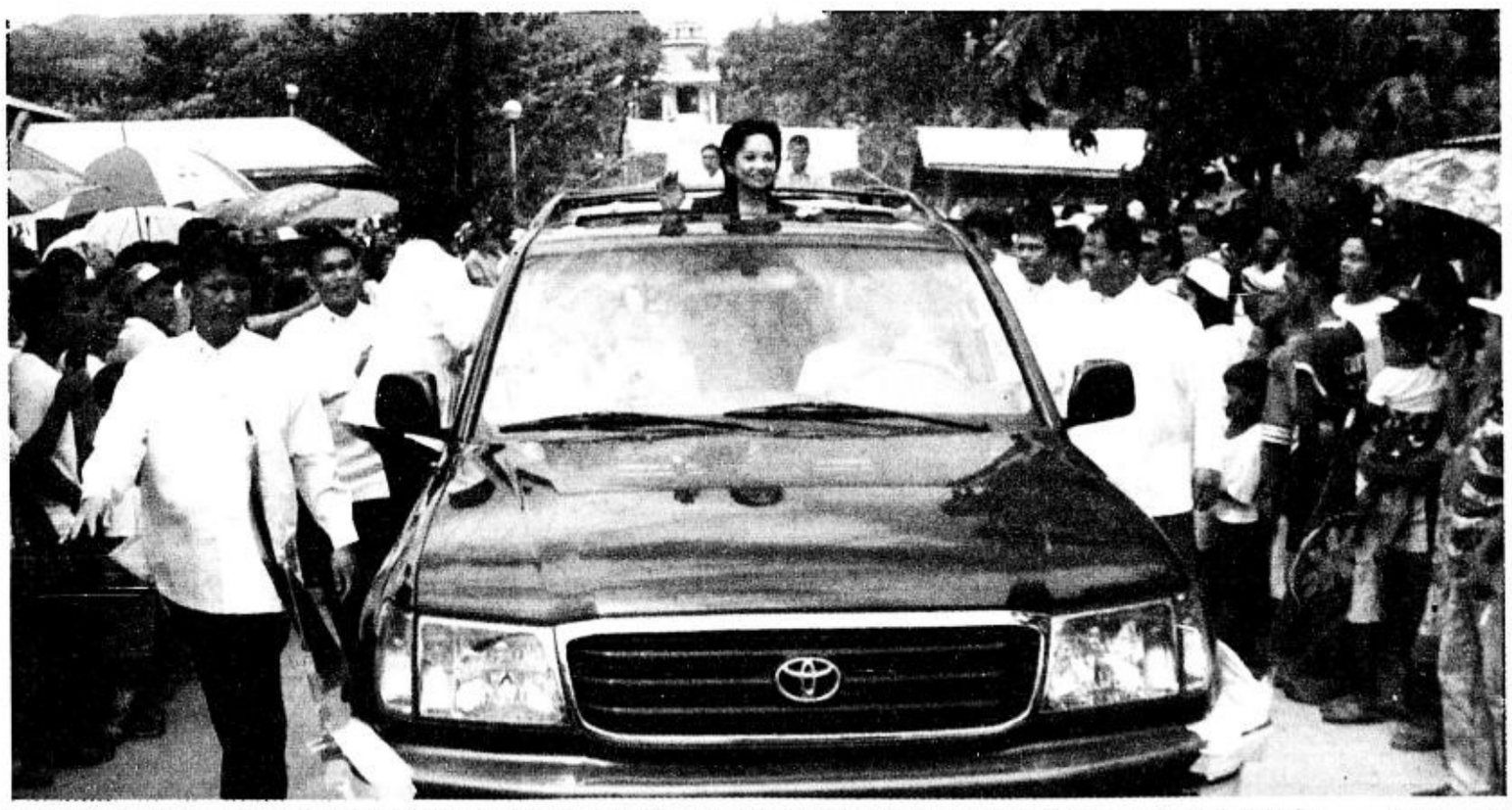
President Macapagal-Arroyo, however, is expected to approve this week the accord approved by both sides.

Press Undersecretary Bobby Capco said the President had sent Bello's team to the Netherlands to hold "discrete exploratory talks with the NDF regarding parameters for peace negotiations."

Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza and human rights lawyer Rene Sarmiento are

GOV'T/ A19

PRESIDENT Macapagal on Friday attends wake of Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin in Sariaya, Quezon, who died on the same day a preliminary accord on the resumption of peace talks was forged in the Netherlands. JOAN BONDOC



PRESIDENT Macapagal visits NPA country in San Andres, Quezon, on the Bondoc peninsula on her way to Martin's wake. JOAN BONDOC

Full honors for Martin

BY DELFIN T. MALLARI JR. AND NESTOR BURGOS JR.

LUCENA CITY—Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin will receive the full funeral honors accorded every slain police officer, Quezon police chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino said yesterday.

Alejandrino pointed out that Martin, 52, who died Thursday morning of blood loss hours after being recovered by a team of Scout Rangers from a guerrilla camp in General Nakar town, had been in the roll of police officers and "was listed only as missing."

Martin was police chief of Dolores town when abducted by the Melito Glor Command of the New People's Army in November 1999.

A 10-member team from the 8th Scout Ranger Company recovered the badly wounded Martin during an alleged chance encounter that resulted in a two-hour firefight early Thursday with the NPA unit that was holding him.

The Rangers were then supposedly in pursuit of NPA rebels who raided Burdeos town on March 2.

But Tirso "Ka Bart" Alcantara, spokesperson of the NPA Melito Glor Command, said on Friday that contrary to military statements, it was not a chance encounter but a bungled rescue attempt.

In an e-mailed statement written in Filipino, Alcantara said the Rangers led by Lt. Warren Lee Dagupon, together with members of the 4th Intelligence Security Unit (ISU), were engaged in a "planned rescue operation."

It was the NPA's first official

FULL/ A18

P100M pledged for special voters registration

BY DONNA S. CUETO, DONA PAZZIBUGAN AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

MALACAÑANG will make available funds of less than P100 million for the proposed special registration of some 4.5 million youths who failed to enlist last December.

According to Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, the funding for the special registration should be the least of the government's concerns because all it has to do is "dip into existing budget funds."

"What we will do is utilize the re-enacted budget for the year 2000 that we have used for the year 2001, to get more funds for the special registration," Boncodin said yesterday over radio station dzMM.

Both the administration and opposition parties have called for a special registration, and yesterday, Senate Minority Leader Rene Cayetano filed the measure that would pave the way for it.

Senate Bill 2273 calls for a special one-day registration for first-time voters not later than April 2 to enable disenfranchised qualified voters to cast their votes in the May 14 elections for senators, congressmen and local officials.

Rep. Joker Arroyo, senatorial candidate of the administration's People Power Coalition (PPC), said it would take Congress only a one-day special session to lift the legal barriers to a special registration.

In a statement, the opposition coalition Puwersa ng Masa (PnM)-Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) said the special registration should be open to all qualified but unregistered voters "regardless of age and standing in life."

But LDP spokesperson Demaree Raval said the administration should not take advantage of the special registration to "do something mischievous."

"Right now, the issue is being used by the administration to earn brownie points. What the opposition wants is a sincere, concrete step to(enlist) those who are qualified to vote but are unregistered," she said.

P100M/ A18

This rich pol really loves poor

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN AND PHILIP C. TUBEZA

"THE RICHER you are, the more you love the poor."

Just don't wear your expensive earrings when they're around.

Opposition senatorial

THIS/ A18

Second FRONT PAGE

Extradition is empty talk–Joker

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BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA
ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ
AND JOWEL F. CANUDAY
PDI Mindanao Bureau

TALK about possible extradition for ousted President Joseph Estrada is "much ado about nothing" as no foreign government would dare accept the disgraced leader as a political refugee because to do so would unnecessarily damage diplomatic relations with the Philippines, pro-administration senatorial candidate Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

"Governments maintain friendly relations with each other and they would not unnecessarily disrupt that situation by accepting a President who will be charged with plunder," Arroyo told reporters at the Sulo Hotel weekly press forum yesterday.

The object of all the speculation yesterday laughed off reports that he was seeking to flee the country and accused the Macapagal-Arroyo administration of spreading rumors against him.

ESTRADA

'I'm not leaving'

"For the umpteenth time, I'll never leave the country," said Estrada, reacting to reports that the government was trying to block him from seeking asylum abroad.

Estrada also ridiculed the government for having police and other security forces monitor his movements, saying "they should invest their time and effort fighting crime."

Arroyo was reacting to reports that United States diplomats have told justice department officials that Washington might not agree to extradite Estrada, despite having an extradition treaty with the Philippines.

The diplomats cited a US policy against extraditing criminals to countries where they could face the death penalty. Estrada could be sentenced to die by lethal injection if found guilty of plunder charges to be filed against him.

Stop him

"If the American diplomats said there would be some difficulty, that means they will not extradite Erap, so the best thing is to prevent him from getting out," Arroyo said.

Instead of useless speculation, Arroyo advised Filipinos to focus instead on the many plunder charges that have yet to be filed against Estrada.

"What we should think about are the cases against him and not his escape, which is being blown out of proportion," he said.

Militant groups yesterday denounced the reported US Embassy position on an Estrada extradition.

In Davao City, Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo said the US position "practically subverts the will of the (Filipino) people."

"It's like offering Estrada political asylum. At any rate, that is a subtle message that Estrada can try to seek asylum in the US," he said.

Ocampo said he did not see the logic of the US argument in refusing to extradite a person charged with major criminal offenses.

"The US Embassy position undermines the Philippine justice system and the public clamor to arrest and prosecute Estrada as soon as possible," Ocampo said.

'Done deal'

The militant fisherfolk group, Pamalakaya, did their colleagues one better, concluding from the US embassy officials' statements that Estrada's political asylum bid in the US was already "a done deal."

Accusing the Macapagal-Arroyo administration of having entered into a "gentleman's agreement" with Washington, the group believes Estrada would be allowed to escape with the US' help.

"The Arroyo government is just bargaining for an assurance from the US government that Estrada would be sent back to the country to face plunder raps and other criminal charges," said Pamalakaya chair Rodolfo Sambajon.

The fact that the Philippine and the US governments were already talking of Estrada's possible extradition is enough ground to conclude that Estrada would sneak out of the country with US assistance, Sambajon said.

Pamalakaya warned the US against accepting Estrada's asylum bid, saying it would be courting an endless series of protests and demonstrations of public outrage in the Philippines.

Coddler of 'plunderer'

It said militant groups would hound the US Embassy in Manila with rallies to denounce the US coddling of yet another big criminal and plunderer, after the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Marcos fled to Hawaii on a US Air Force plane after he was ousted in the first Edsa People Power revolt in February 1986.

"The US government did it before with Marcos, they will do it again with Estrada. The public should be warned on any deal that would allow Estrada to escape and evade counts of plunder charges and other criminal raps," said another Pamalakaya leader, Gerry Albert Corpuz.

He urged US-based Filipino patriots and the American people to protest the entry of Estrada into the United States.

"Estrada is not a local patriot fearing for his life against enemies of democracy and freedom, he's a plunderer and dangerous criminal on the loose," Corpuz said.

Alvin Luque, Bayan-Davao City secretary general, said the US was being consistent in its role of protecting fallen dictators and disgraced leaders.

With a report from AFP

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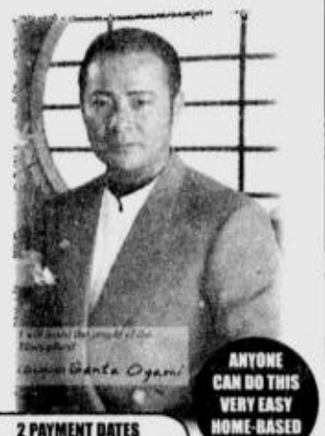

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US, RP to swap prisoners

THE PHILIPPINES and the United States will forge an agreement to swap convicted prisoners, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

Under the proposed exchange, Americans jailed in the Philippines would be swapped for Filipinos jailed in the United States, with prisoners finishing their sentences in their respective countries.

Perez said the issue was raised in a meeting with US Embassy officials led by charge d'affaires Michael Malinowski on Friday.

"They told me there is very big pressure on them to protect American citizens and because of that pressure, we decided to talk about it," Perez told journalists.

However, he said that the details still have to be threshed out, remarking that while the US Embassy had a complete list of Americans jailed in the Philippines, Manila had no list of Filipinos jailed in the United States.

In April last year, the Philippines signed an agreement with Hong Kong to swap almost a hundred jailed Hong Kong residents in Philippine jails with 150 Filipinos in Hong Kong. A similar agreement with Thailand is still being drawn up.

Justice department officials said such prisoner swap agreements only cover those serving sentences of three years or more and who still have at least one year of their sentences left to serve. It does not cover convicts under sentence of death. *AFP*

MORE POLL SAFEGUARDS

Finger holds key vs flying voters

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

FLYING voters will have to cut their forefingers in the middle so they could vote more than once on May 14 if businessman Jose Concepcion is to have his way.

Concepcion, chair of the National Movement for Free Elections, yesterday asked the Commission on Elections to seriously consider a proposal to have voters' forefingers not only dabbed at the nail with indelible ink but immersed up to the middle joint so that the ink would not be easily removed.

"Indelible ink should not be applied on the fingertip which can be easily removed by alcohol and gasoline," said Concepcion in a letter to Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo.

"The entire finger up to the middle joint should be immersed so that the ink cannot be removed for one whole week," Concepcion said.

Concepcion said this practice had been successfully adopted to thwart flying voters in recent elections in Indonesia and Cambodia.

Under the Omnibus Election Code, silver nitrate and comassie blue—the components of indelible ink—shall be applied on the nail of the right forefinger or on any other available finger nail "if there be no forefinger nail."

This suggestion to soak half of voters' right forefingers in indelible ink after they had voted was among the proposals submitted by Concepcion and Namfrel co-chair Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez to Benipayo on March 6 to prevent election fraud.

The suggestion was raised amid the disarray regarding implementation of the poll body's precinct-mapping project.

The yet unfinished project, for which the Comelec had already spent P297 million, is aimed at weeding out fictitious and multiple voters from the computerized voters' list through house-to-house verification and making precincts more manageable by limiting the number of voters in each precinct to only 200 people.

Only Comelec officials in Regions 9 and 10 in Mindanao have finished the mapping task so far. In the National Capital Region, the project has not been completed by about 30 to 40 percent due time constraint.

Concepcion said the failure of the Comelec to complete the precinct mapping nationwide would result in confusion as voters would have difficulty locating their names in the precincts.

"The problem is if the voter who was qualified to vote in 1998 no longer finds his name in the new and verified list of voters, then there will be confusion and protests," Concepcion said. "As such, the courts will be hard put to decide the cases on election day."

He said approximately 30 to 50 percent of the 35 million names in the 1998 computerized voters' list had not been verified because the persons registered were either in their offices or out of the house despite repeated calls.

Investments up 50% under Gloria

BY DONNA S. CUETO

INVESTMENTS in the country have risen 50 percent since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office, Malaca-ñang said yesterday, citing a Board of Investments report.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said this was one of the "bright spots" in the local economy in the month and a half of the Macapagal administration.

"With more investors coming in, more factories will be put up, meaning more jobs for our people," Sto. Tomas said.

The Palace statement, however, did not give details of the rise in investments.

It only cited the 50 percent figure and a recent forecast by French investment bank, BNP Paribas, that growth prospects under the Macapagal administration would continue to improve.

"The Philippine economy could grow at over six percent for several years. We expect falling inflation and interest rates and a stable peso," said Andrew Feris, BNP Paribas chief economist.

Sto. Tomas also cited the pledge of some 340 local companies not to lay off workers while the employment situation remained critical as another factor that contributed to the increased foreign confidence in the country.

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DECS gives poor teachers tax break

BY B.S. RIVERA

PUBLIC school teachers may soon get a reprieve from onerous deductions to their meager paychecks after the education and finance departments agreed to suspend the collection of withholding taxes from the tutors for four months.

Education Secretary Raul Roco said yesterday the Departments of Finance and of Education, Culture and Sports were working on a moratorium on the collection of withholding taxes from the teachers.

In his speech before the Rotary Club at the Manila Hotel yesterday, Roco said he had a verbal agreement with Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo to increase the take-home pay of teachers, most of whom receive less than a fourth of their salaries due to loan payment deductions.

"We must find solutions to the problem (of the financial fix of teachers)," Roco said. "When the big banks ask for a moratorium, the government steps in. When the corporations need help, the government bails them out."

"Well, the DECS is larger than any two of the top corporations in the Philippines. We have a bigger share of the gross national product. (The government) must grant a moratorium to teachers," he said.

Roco said he made the proposal for a moratorium on deductions from teachers during last week's Cabinet meeting in Malacañang.

"Bert Romulo said it (moratorium) was possible under the law, and we will try to get it, just to add P1,000 to the net pay of the teachers," Roco said.

Last week, Roco said he would soon sit down with representatives of 187 lending institutions "for a reconciliation" of the facts regarding government teachers' indebtedness to their companies.

Since taking over the education portfolio, Roco has said it will be his priority to "correct (the) injustice" of public school teachers bringing home paychecks decimated by the system of automatic salary deductions abetted by the DECS.

Roco said he would ask the lending agencies to show him their records and clarify the arrangement they have with the DECS where the department is their "collection agency."

"We want a reconciliation," Roco said. "We want aging of the accounts—when did the teachers borrow, how much have they paid, how much more should they pay? We want to be shown (how it works)."

He said he would also ask the private firms collecting monthly payments from the teachers to "give (them) a break."

Some of these firms, he said, were "big boys" who collect as much as P240 million from the teachers every month.

The secretary has also called on insurance companies to explain why they give the DECS a four-percent commission on the money it deducts from the schoolteachers' pay.

"The DECS is not only the largest collection agency, we are also the largest insurance agency," Roco said.

Yesterday, the DECS chief pointed out that the government was prompt in collecting withholding taxes—which represent a tenth of an employee's monthly income—from the teachers but was slow in remitting reimbursements.

He said the public school tutors were entitled to reimbursements totaling about 10 months' worth of taxes, or about P10,000, but had been waiting for a long time for the money.

The four-month moratorium would start before the next school year and allow the teachers to take home around P1,000 more a month.

The amount not withheld within the period would be charged against reimbursements, Roco said.

"The teachers have been asking for their reimbursements, but the reimbursements are two years late. There's something wrong with that," Roco said.

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'Women Vote' not for just any woman

By Juliet Labog Javellana

THE FIRST-EVER move in the country to assemble and focus women's votes will probably be noted not for who it endorses but for who it excludes.

A group of women leaders, led by former candidate for vice president Irene "Inday" Santiago and former social welfare secretary Lina Laigo, launched the initiative yesterday to harness the 14-million strong women voters into a powerful voting block for the May 14 senatorial elections.

According to the group, it hopes to "change the face of Philippine politics."

The interest group, tagged Women Vote for Political Change, is choosing who to endorse from among senatorial aspirants Solita "Winnie" Monsod, Liwayway Vinzons Chato and Santanina Rasul to the 14 million women voters.

The group did not bother to invite the three other female senatorial candidates—Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, former first lady Luisa "Loi" Estrada and Jamby Madrigal who are all running under the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa which is allied with ousted President Joseph Estrada.

When the INQUIRER asked Inday Santiago why the three were not invited, she said, "They do not have integrity and principle, so why invite them?"

Monsod, Chato, Rasul

Monsod, Chato and Rasul were invited to discuss their platforms during the initiative's launching and organizational meeting at the Club Filipino in San Juan, Metro Manila, yesterday.

Inday Santiago, Raul Roco's running mate in the 1998 presidential election, said the group's founding members would meet yesterday afternoon to decide which of the three they would endorse.

Monsod and Chato are the two female candidates in the administration People Power Coalition. Rasul, a former senator, was passed over in the selection of the PPC Senate ticket and subsequently opted to run under the LDP-PnM banner.

Monsod was economic planning chief during the Aquino administration, a University of the Philippines economics professor for 13 years and host of the popular "Debate with Mare at Pare" on GMA 7 television. Chato, former commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, is a lawyer and tax expert.

Inday Santiago said organizers have agreed on the criteria of principle, integrity and competence in choosing the woman candidate or candidates to be endorsed to women voters.

"The Women Vote is not for just any woman," she said.

Ejercito, wife of Estrada and a psychiatrist, is seen as getting sympathy votes for being a long-suffering spouse of a husband who keeps a string of mistresses.

Senator Santiago, who had styled herself as a graft-buster, became a favorite subject of scorn by people who helped topple Estrada because of her staunch defense of her friend during the aborted impeachment trial at the Senate.

Madrigal served as Estrada's adviser on children's affairs.

'Dominant voice'

Monsod said she was glad to be invited at the group's launching and expressed hope she would pass the criteria.

"In the 25 rallies I attended in the 30 days I have been a senatorial candidate, I found out that in every single voice vote I ask, the women's voice is a resounding and dominant one," Monsod said.

Monsod, exploiting her popularity from hosting a TV show, made it a practice on the campaign trail to ask men and women separately to shout to determine who between the groups had a greater number.

Chato was similarly pleased at being considered by the group. She said she would bring her expertise in tax law to the Senate and help craft laws that would improve the government's handling of its purse.

Chato said it was only during her tenure at the BIR that the agency was able to surpass its revenue collection targets.

"The organizers are trying to get the women together so that there will be a significant and palpable women's vote in the coming elections. It's about time," Monsod said.

Inday Santiago said, "For this election, we are looking at one to three million votes."

She said the organizers would establish chapters in the barangay, municipal, provincial and regional levels and tap women leaders in civic, professional, religious and grassroots groups.

She said the response was so far enthusiastic as indicated by the attendance of woman leaders from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao in yesterday's launching.

She said the Women Vote was not about merely getting women elected.

"This is about making our elected officials accountable to the people. This was the call for new politics in People Power II," she said.

Voter power

Inday Santiago said the consensus of provincial and city chapters would determine who among the three would be endorsed by the group.

Laigo, member of the organizing committee, said voter education would be an important aspect of the group's activities.

"It is important that the female voters see how the power of their vote can make government give priority to the issues they care about, such as education, health, livelihood and peace," Laigo said in a statement.

Amelita Dayrit-Go, one of the convenors, said that by unifying the vote of women, the group would be able to determine the future of the country.

Other convenors of the movement are Lorna Patajo Kapunan, Marily Orosa, Tes Choa, Lulu Casas Quezon, Lynn Sunico, Sr. Christine Tan, Mel Alonzo, Alice de la Gente, Beth Micaller, Rose Yenko, Dolly de Quiros Castillo, Triccie Sison and Zeny B. Rotea.

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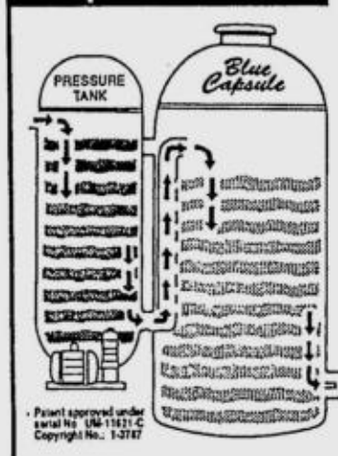

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Drilon sees absentee balloting in 2004

SOME seven million overseas Filipinos workers will finally be able to vote in the 2004 presidential election.

This was the prediction of Sen. Franklin M. Drilon, one of the strong proponents to the granting of absence voting rights to OFWs and other Filipinos living abroad.

By the 2004 elections, workable procedures and systems would have been found to conduct absentee balloting in many, if not all, of the foreign countries where Filipinos live or work, Drilon said in a press statement.

Drilon said the inability of the last Congress to pass the bill on absentee balloting was due to fears that the Commission on Elections and Philippine embassies and consulates abroad were not prepared to handle the task.

"'There is strong support for absentee balloting in the two chambers of Congress. However, there are serious apprehensions that the government is not yet capable, technically, financially and physically, to undertake the process," said Drilon.

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CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Gloria extends hand of reconciliation

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

WHILE campaigning for the senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition, President Macapagal-Arroyo has also been extending the hand of reconciliation to the supporters of former President Joseph Estrada.

At a PPC rally in Calamba, Laguna, Friday night, Ms Macapagal urged the audience to forget the "bitterness of the past" and join hands with her administration in working toward economic prosperity.

The President said People Power II was a revolution for truth, justice and good government.

"*Pero ngayon na nagtagumpay na tayo, hindi na tayo palaging bumabalik doon sa alitan sa nakaraan. Ngayon naman ay haharap tayo sa* 21st century (Now that we have triumphed, we should not return to the acrimony of the past. Today we should look toward the 21st century)," she told the crowd, which was a little lean, at Calamba.

"*Ano ang ipinaglalaban ng* People Power II? *Hindi na yung alitan. Hindi na yung* Erap Resign *dahil nag-*resign *na. Ang ipinaglalaban natin ngayon ay ang kinabukasan ng ating bansa* (What is People Power II fighting for? Not the acrimony. Not the Erap Resign because he has resigned. What we are fighting for is the future of our country)," she said. She urged her audience to vote for all the 13 candidates for senator of the PPC.

"These 13 were chosen well, because each of them was a hero of People Power II," Ms Macapagal said, alluding to Franklin Drilon, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Juan Flavier, Sergio Osmeña III, Joker Arroyo, Manuel Villar, Ernesto Herrera, Wigberto Tañada, Ralph Recto, Kiko Pangilinan, Obet Pagdanganan, Winnie Monsod and Liwayway Chato.

In a statement, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said he was impressed with Ms Macapagal for the demeanor she displayed during a recent visit to Tondo, Manila, where many residents still support Estrada.

"I must express my admiration for Ms Macapagal, for her patience and humility in the face of snubs and discourtesies directed at her by the pro-Erap Smokey Mountain residents," Pimentel said.

"As the mother of the nation, the President should spare no effort to unite our people. Let us give her our unqualified support so that she will succeed in moving our country forward for the well-being of all," Pimentel said.

COVENANT: People Power Coalition senatorial candidate Wigberto Tañada signs a covenant to give priority to legislation promoting livelihood, housing, education and ecological preservation at the Veterans Village in Quezon City. EDWIN BACASMAS

Drivers for Dong

SAYING he would best articulate the interests of the transport sector, an organization of jeepney drivers and operators has thrown its support behind former press secretary Ricardo "Dong" Puno Jr., who is running for senator in the May 14 elections, according to a news release from Puno's camp.

The Federation of Rizal Cubao Operations/Drivers Alliance represented by Digs Escober said it believed that Puno's extensive background and experience in the media, law profession and the corporate sector would make him an effective "fiscalizer" and spokesperson of the masses in the Senate.

"As an opposition leader, we believe that Laban senatorial frontrunner Dong Puno would not merely kowtow to the government's whims and would instead help promote and protect the interests of marginalized sectors like us," Escober said.

LIKE a seasoned veteran, former first lady Loi Ejercito woos voters aboard a jeepney during a campaign sortie in Malabon. DENNIS SABANGAN

JOBS, HOUSING: Former Speaker Manny Villar outlines his platform at the Kaplhan at the Manila Hotel.

PLASTIC chair is the stage for Puwersa ng Masa senatorial reelectionists Juan Ponce Enrile and Miriam Defensor-Santiago (right) during a stop in Malabon. DENNIS SABANGAN

Villar to traders: The time is now

"TAKE advantage of declining interest rates to start new businesses and expand existing ones."

This was the advice of former Speaker Manuel Villar to Filipino entrepreneurs, after the Bangko Sentral 'ng Pilipinas announced it was further dropping interest rates beginning Monday.

Borrowing rates will be brought down to 10.55 percent from 11 percent and overnight lending rates will fall to 12.75 percent from 13.25 percent, effectively bringing the rates down to pre-crisis levels.

"Now is the time for entrepreneurs to step up to help revive the economy," said Villar, who headed a real estate conglomerate before he went into politics.

Villar, who is running for senator under the administration's People Power Coalition, said the resurgence of industries due to an "entrepreneurial revolution" would help create employment and growth opportunities for Filipinos.

"We need more entrepreneurs to revitalize and uplift the economy," he said.

He added that an infusion of capital by entrepreneurs would help to ensure the nation's long-term economic growth as it would create wealth in the countryside.

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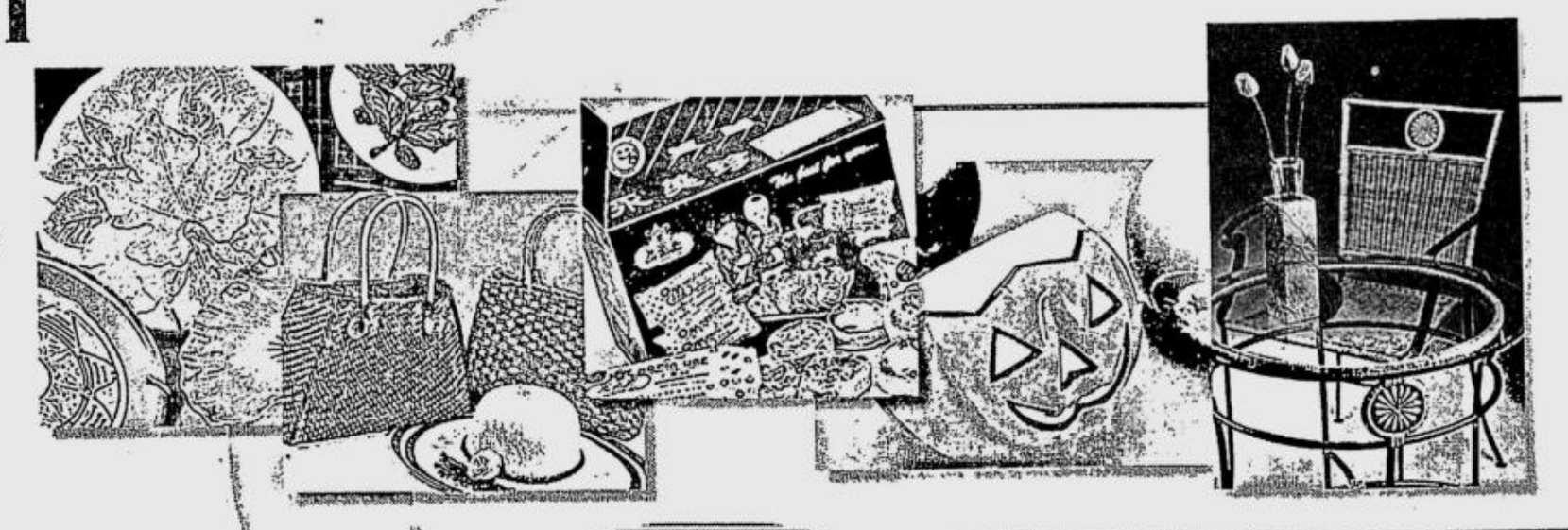

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Ombudsman clears PEA, BCDA execs

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has dismissed the administrative case against officials of the Bases Conversion Development Authority and Public Estates Authority involving landscaping and construction contracts for the development of the Heritage Park Project (HPP) in Taguig Metro Manila.

Director Mary Susan Guillermo of the Ombudsman's Administrative Adjudication Bureau recommended the dismissal of the case against BCDA executive chair Rogelio Singson, BCDA executive vice chair Isaac S. Puno III and PEA general manager Carlos P. Doble.

Ombudsman Anian Desierto approved the dismissal of the case.

The Edison Development Construction had complained that the BCDA and PEA illegally cancelled its contract by ordering a stop on the landscaping project The company also had tried to hold the respondents responsible for the alleged demolition of the EDC's barracks and bunkhouses in the project site.

Guillermo, however, ruled that "the termination of the complainant's contracts and the issuance of a stoppage of work order were valid and legitimate exercise of a discretionary managerial prerogative."

In recommending the dismissal of the case, Guillermo said, "the issuance of the notice of stoppage of work did not evince a capricious and whimsical exercise of judgment," as she cited the Bases Conversion Development Act of 1992 which recognized "the importance and urgent nature of the project."

Guillermo, in effect, reversed the recommendation of the graft investigating officer, who first evaluated the case, noting that the "respondents" immediate action under the then prevailing circumstances was fully justified."

The EDC and PEA had executed contracts for the construction of the landscape and nursery works and the terrasoleum of the HPP. The landscaping project was scheduled for completion on March 10, 1998.

The EDC, however, failed to complete the project on its target date. Instead, it twice requested for the extension of time to complete the project. Despite the two extensions, the contractor was not able to complete the landscaping works. Moreover, the implementation of the terrasoleum project also suffered substantial delays.

PSE chair reelected, seeks to soften reforms

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

YAP

VETERAN stockbroker Felipe Yap was yesterday reelected as chair of the 184-member Philippine Stock Exchange, and immediately pledged to work for the amendment of the Securities Regulations Code which he said was detrimental to the stock market.

Congress passed the SRC last year in the wake of the BW Resources Corp. share price manipulation scandal, which brokers now believe to have been an overreaction.

Yap said that while drastic reforms were needed to check alleged abuses in the market, he believed the SRC "pushed the pendulum to the other extreme."

He cited two provisions that he said were debilitating to the market: the segregation of the broker-dealer functions and the unreasonable restrictions instituted by the broker-director rule.

Broker-dealer rule

The latter rule prohibits a brokerage firm related to a listed company to trade its securities if there are persons in these companies related by consanguinity and affinity to the fourth degree.

"We tried our best to soften the blow of the damaging effects of the SRC through continuous dialogue with the Securities and Exchange Commission but our efforts were largely fruitless," Yap said.

The SEC agreed on only two concessions: the suspension of the broker-dealer rule and the imposition of the paid-up capital of P50 to P100 million.

Yap said the PSE has already engaged a law firm to begin drafting the proposed amendments to the SRC to be submitted to the incoming Congress.

Near sweep

Yap's slate won six out of seven seats in the 15-member PSE board allotted for brokers.

His challenger, Summit Securities president Harry Liu, who was also a former PSE chair, was the only one from the opposition slate to make it to the "magic seven."

Of the 20 official broker-candidates, however, it was not Yap but another member of his slate, Vivian Yuchengco, who won the most number of votes. Yuchengco, president of First Resources Management and Securities Corp. who ran for a second term as governor, led the historic walk-out at the Makati trading floor in Makati to demand then ousted President Joseph Estrada's resignation in January.

Aside from heading F Yap Securities, Yap sits as chair of the Lepanto Group and is a director of various companies, among them Guoco Holdings Inc., Peninsula Manila Hotel Inc. and Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp.

Palace eyes amendment to CB Act

MALACANANG will push amendments to the Central Bank Act so government could inquire into "deposits of suspicious nature."

It also vowed to improve transparency and accountability of monetary authorities, as it supported the efforts of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to remove existing legal barriers to fight money laundering.

A proposed amendment to the BSP charter would allow the Monetary Board to look into deposits of more than P50 million in an individual account—a move aimed to trace any irregularity in the transaction, explained a Palace statement quoting BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

Buenaventura, however, said that such initiative would only be resorted to if there was a "reasonable ground" to believe that an account was being used in relation to fraud or any irregularity.

"This effectively restores the authority of the Monetary Board under the old Central Bank Act, which was deleted under the new Central Bank Act to inquire into a deposit of a suspicious nature," he said.

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OPINION

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NPC conundrum

IT may be all right for people to have exaggerated notions about the power of the press. Such is expected in a country where the press rates higher in public confidence surveys than government and politicians. But something must be wrong when the press starts to believe in surveys and the public's inordinate expectations of it. The press must be advised to keep a level head. It must keep its feet on the ground.

EDITORIALS

That admonition should have guided the National Press Club before it applied for accreditation as the citizens' electoral watchdog in the May elections. The application has surprised many, including members of the NPC. As a result, the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) has found its application before the Commission on Elections in danger. For who dares go against the wishes of the press?

The rub is that the wishes of the press may not be in the interest of the people. It is often said the press sets the agenda for the nation. But one should consider that the press is basically an amorphous group of news organizations working at cross-purposes, driven by interests and ends that look good on paper but are messy in real life. Its agenda can sometimes be self-aggrandizing.

Therefore, the NPC should be questioned about its motivation. What really compelled it to apply for accreditation? Alas, there is no clear answer. The application was not the product of deliberation and consultation. How else explain the fact that newspapers were only invited to join the proposed NPC quick count after the application for accreditation had been made?

The quick what? Aha, so the NPC does not only want to monitor the May elections; it also wants to tally and canvas votes, parallel with the official Comelec count. Considering that the Comelec has yet to fully computerize its system, and even if it does so, it has yet to perfect it, then the NPC quick count may not only dovetail with the Comelec's, but also supersede it, even beat it to the draw.

Some are impressed by the gumption of the NPC in offering to conduct a quick count. Quite many are simply incredulous. How could the NPC, with its finances perennially in the red, bankroll the cost of a nationwide count? If it will not dip into its own pockets, which are otherwise empty, how will it be able to raise the funds to acquire the logistics to monitor the elections and conduct the parallel count? What sources will it tap? Can transparency be ensured in the mobilization of sources? If so, what's the give and take?

The questions should show that the enterprise is fraught with judgment calls. To be sure, even members of the press do not know how the NPC will address such calls—or if it has even considered the ethical dilemmas that come with its decision to conduct the count.

We are not even talking here of the NPC's competence to conduct the count, which we presume is a computerized tally. Despite the introduction of information technology in the newsroom, many NPC veterans are IT-challenged (that's a nice way of saying they're computer illiterates). Visit the NPC. Try to locate a functioning computer there amid the booze and sleaze. That is, if you're lucky to get the elevator to open its door and bring you up without the cable snapping.

House cleaning

RATHER than concern itself with the conduct of the elections, the NPC should preoccupy itself with house cleaning. Before conducting a quick count, it should purge its own voters' list in which newspaper drivers and copy boys get equal billing as legitimate members of the press. Before monitoring the election campaign, it should reform its electoral system, which abets big spending and horse-trading.

Let the NPC busy itself with the professionalization of the press, we are tempted to say. But we restrain ourselves. Because the NPC has long ago ceased to be an organization devoted to the professionalization of journalism. It is at best a social club, a drinking club, and not even a good one at that.

Go to the NPC. Bask in the sheer splendor of its filth: the dusty rug, the musty smell and the sheer stench of abuse and squalor. Take a gaze at the squalid walls, which were once graced by a Manansala mural, now buried in a coastal shelf of neglect and human effluvium. You would think the place was the seediest honky-tonk.

This is the NPC which offers to help keep our elections clean?

The Estrada case

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE LANDMARK case of Estrada v. Macapagal-Arroyo, decided last Friday, should lay to rest once and for all the challenge of the pro-Erap forces against the legitimacy of the present government. The 13-0 vote should send the clearest signal that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is the *de jure* President of the Philippines.

For all its outstanding merits, however, the decision did not receive the full support of the high court. Chief Justice Davide and Justice Panganiban had inhibited themselves because of their role in the oath-taking of President Macapagal on Jan. 20, 2001. While five justices concurred without reservation with two more amplifying the *ponencia*, five others concurred only in the result, i.e., the dismissal of Estrada's petitions for prohibition and *quo warranto*.

Those who concurred fully with Justice Reynato S. Puno were Justices Bellosillo, Melo, Quisumbing, Gonzaga-Reyes and De Leon, with Justices Vitug and Mendoza filing separate concurring opinions. They made eight in all. The five remaining justices, namely, Kapunan, Pardo, Buena, Ynares-Santiago and Sandoval-Gutierrez merely concurred in the result, three of them indicating their intention to file separate opinions.

It might have occurred to the last-named group to dissent, at least partially, except that they probably convinced themselves that a unanimous verdict would have more impact. Others may have made the persuasion. In any event, concurrence merely in the result signifies that it is made with certain misgivings about some parts of the decision. It means agreement with the verdict as a whole but not necessarily with the reasons supporting it.

The Court unanimously dismissed all the basic allegations of the petitioner and held that (a) the issue raised in the petitions was justiciable rather than political; (b) Estrada was not merely on leave while Ms Macapagal was Acting President; (c) Estrada was not immune from criminal prosecution on the assumption that he was still President; and (d) the criminal action against him should not be enjoined on the ground of prejudicial publicity.

The tribunal decided the first issue on the strength of Tañada v. Cuenco, 100 Phil. 1101, where Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion distinguished between the political and justiciable questions, the latter involving the legality and not the wisdom of the challenged act. On the second issue, the justices held that Estrada had effectively resigned, thus creating the vacancy Vice President Macapagal validly filled. The Court also denied Estrada's claim of presidential immunity pending his conviction in the impeachment case, which had been terminated, and that even as incumbent president, he was still answerable for his unofficial acts. The last complaint was also rejected on the ground of freedom of expression and in the absence of clear evidence of the alleged prejudicial publicity against Estrada.

I have often commented with pride on the acuity of Justice Reynato S. Puno, who has written many important decisions on our fundamental law and bids fair to be the leading constitutionalist on the present Supreme Court. His *ponencia* was well written as usual, with the necessary legal doctrines to make it authoritative and just enough literary flair to save it from boredom.

Still and all, I cannot completely agree with the decision. In so saying, I do not pretend to be still a member of the Court, and much less a superior critic, but speak only as a humble lawyer and private citizen.

I have no quarrel with most of the Court's conclusions but cannot fully concur with its reasons for finding that Joseph Estrada had resigned on that fateful day of Jan. 20, 2001. Specifically, I cannot accept the reliance of the Court on the entries in the diary of former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara on the events that day leading to Estrada's departure from Malacañang and the presidency of the Philippines.

In the first place, as Estrada acutely observes, that is not his diary; it is Angara's. How can its entries be considered a declaration against Estrada's interest when he did not make the declaration? I'm not sure if the diary was ever submitted as an exhibit or at least annexed to one of the pleadings. Moreover, it was clearly not under oath and so was not admissible as evidence against Estrada or anyone else, for that matter. Finally, I do not believe it was a valid subject of judicial notice.

In his book on Evidence, former Supreme Court Justice Ricardo J. Francisco says that the concept "means no more than that the court will bring to its aid and consider, without proof of the facts, its knowledge of those matters of public concern which are known by all well-informed persons." Although the diary was serialized in the INQUIRER, we can't be certain that it was read by "all well-informed persons."

Perhaps the decision should have simply held that Estrada had, by his own acts that day, effectively resigned and thus vacated the presidency. He had called for a snap election in which he promised not to run. He had issued a second statement saying he was leaving his office so as not to exacerbate (not his word) the growing tension. All his personal effects were crated and removed. In the full glare of the television cameras, he bade a sad farewell to the Palace staff, the presidential security force, and his remaining friends and supporters. All these ceremonies were not necessary if he was just going to his private residence for a vacation.

As I stressed in an earlier column, resignation may be made orally or in writing and may be express or even only implied. No particular form is required under our laws. It is obvious from Estrada's final day in Malacañang, particularly his statements preceding his departure, that he had decided to relinquish his office and physically leave it with the obvious intention of not returning. That was a resignation pure and simple that opened the gates of the Palace to his constitutional successor.

Angara's diary was not a necessary "window" to Estrada's intentions. It was Estrada's own acts that clearly revealed his real intentions.

Transfiguration moments

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

SOMEONE said that if you treat a cold, it lasts for seven days. If you don't treat it, it lasts for one week! So, when colds come, all we really need is rest, lots of liquids and lots of sleep.

I precisely had these this week—these and more. I also had the chance to do some domestic chores that gave me that "feel clean" feeling. I cleaned my room, washed the car and got a haircut. Since I had the luxury of time, I did these three not out of routine and rush. They were all done with much prayer, reflection and insight. A simple case of a common cold leading to a religious experience! It is something not in the magnitude of the transfiguration which Peter, James and John experienced at the mountaintop in today's Gospel (Lk. 9, 28-36), but definitely of the same spirit.

* * *

When was the last time you cleaned or rearranged your room? Have you ever thanked God that you have a room? There are people who live in carts and sleep on cold pavements every night. I cry within whenever I see a whole family, including little children, prepare to settle down for the night in a dark corner somewhere. How many of those things in your room are really needed or used by you? Your precious "collection" in your room could be used by people now. Clean your room of what is excess. Clean your heart of a desire to hold on and to keep. If you were found dead in your room one day, what will people see, mock or keep?

* * *

Washing a car can have a therapeutic effect as it gives one a sense of achievement and cleanness. Car wash also got me thinking about heart wash. The first thing is that the car has to be in order so that it can be washed. The heart too must slow down and be silent, so that it can listen. Unless we are silent, we cannot listen (notice the same letters involved?). Second, the car, like the heart must allow itself to be washed. It is obedient and submissive. It does not run away. All too often, we rationalize, deny and postpone our heart-washing schedule. Third, the car, like the heart, must be open, all the doors and windows must be opened so that dirt and dust in all areas and all corners are removed. There. Car shiny and bright. Heart clean and light!

* * *

Having a haircut is one of the few times I feel I am ministered to, and it is a nice feeling for someone like me who always ministers. It is an expression of one's need for others, an acceptance of one's littleness and dependence. It is like saying, "OK, here I am. Take over. Cut away!" We must learn to let go and let God into our lives, allow Him to cut away those unruly and unyielding habits and attitudes.

The parting massage at the shoulders and neck is also very affirming. It is like being told by God "You're OK. You're all right. Get going. I am with you."

See what a haircut can do?

* * *

Have you had a deep experience with God's love? Have you ever really experienced Him as a loving Father, gentle, understanding and personal? Unless you've experienced God in a very personal way, you are still shooting from the head, from the mouth, from the hip, but not from the heart. In such a situation, your relationship with God is mostly rules, obligations, fear and doctrines. But if one has really experienced God as a loving Father, then all the rules and doctrines do matter, but they take a secondary place in the light of God's tremendous love. Pray to God to reveal Himself to you in a special way, and to reveal Himself again and again. Pray for it right now.

* * *

Perhaps you've seen them along the road, those electric posts that support the sagging electric wires. I call these "contact points."

As we travel life's road, we encounter from time to time contact points with the divine that lift up our sagging spirits. God has perfect timing as to where and when He will touch us. He will not let us down. Note however that we cannot be high-strung all the time. We do not and cannot stay in the mountaintop all the time. We cannot remain, much as we want to, at the peak all the time. We cannot be spiritual gluttons. We have realities to face, roads to travel, valleys to cross, but the memory of the peak experience will see us through. And be assured, if God touched you once, He will touch you again and again in His own time, according to His will and grace.

* * *

Did you know that you and I can and should be agents of transfiguration and conversion? A text message put it beautifully: "A doctor saves lives, a lawyer defends lives, a soldier protects lives, but you and I as Christians can touch lives." We who have been touched by God must touch other people's lives too. Loved by God, we go and love others. Recipients of the Good News, we go and spread the Good News with deep gratitude and joy.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, you have touched me and loved me. Help me to be grateful to You and be loving to others, too. Touch me again and again, and help me to touch others, too. Amen.

Arafat in poor shape to face Sharon

NEWS ANALYSIS

Richard Engel

JERUSALEM—Devastated by months of fighting and a punitive Israeli blockade, the Palestinian Authority is economically ruined and in sorry shape to resume negotiations with Israel's new government, headed by right-wing leader Ariel Sharon.

Analysts and Western diplomats say this quasi-government of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, which can barely pay its more than 100,000 employees, teeters on the brink of collapse. They say its social services and police forces are unable and at times unwilling to carry out their duties fully.

Arafat, the standard-bearer of the Palestinian independence movement for four decades, also faces challenges from a new crop of local leaders who have emerged from the five-month-long uprising, or intifada, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Arafat has been the symbol of the movement, and sometimes symbols have so much power and influence," said Mahdi Abdul Hadi of the Palestinian Academic Society for International Affairs. "But sometimes a symbol is only a symbol, and he (Arafat) has no say over the *tanzim*, the local battles and the confrontations in neighborhoods."

Militants linked to Arafat's Fatah faction are loosely known as the "*tanzim*," an Arabic word meaning "organization."

For the past few months of the intifada, tanzim gunmen have shot at Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and fired on Israeli military posts after soldiers killed Palestinians in what have been near-daily protests. More than 430 people have died in the clashes since last September, more than 80 percent of them Palestinians.

But more than the deaths, which have unified Palestinians against Israel, the weight of the economic closure has exposed and widened cracks in the poorly administrated and reputedly corrupt Palestinian Authority.

More than the deaths, which have unified Palestinians against Israel, the weight of the economic closure has exposed and widened cracks in the poorly administrated and reputedly corrupt Palestinian Authority

The United States and Europe have urged Israel to lift the closure, which prevents more than 100,000 Palestinian workers from reaching jobs in Israel and cuts off access of Palestinian products to Israeli markets.

The army imposed the closure to prevent violence by keeping Palestinians away from Israelis through a network of roadblocks and trenches around Palestinian towns and cities, locking their inhabitants inside. The result has been to shove one-third of the three million Palestinians in the territories below the poverty line.

In these sealed Palestinian-run clusters, Arafat's Authority does continue to operate, with its police arresting common criminals and its hospitals and schools running, albeit under strain. But the courts and other institutions now function with a backlog unprecedented even in the Palestinian Authority's seven-year history of inefficiency. Local government can hardly function, with judges and legislators living under virtual house arrest, unable to reach their offices or meet colleagues, a senior UN official said on the condition of anonymity.

However, the Palestinian Authority also has itself to blame for some of its loss of sovereignty. It has given a free hand to tanzim militants, who operate with impunity in Palestinian-run areas. It has also released hundreds of militants from the radical Islamic Jihad group and the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, the main rival to Fatah in the territories.

Israel has further pressured the Authority by withholding what Palestinian officials say amounts to more than $400 million collected by the Jewish state through taxes and customs duties.

Arab states, which have pledged more than $1 billion to support Palestinians, have been reluctant to send it, fearing the money would fall prey to corruption, Western diplomats said.

The strain on the Palestinian Authority will undoubtedly affect Israeli-Palestinian negotiations if and when they resume.

Sharon has said he wants to meet Arafat in a bid to quell the violence, an apparent easing of his hardline position. But the ability of the Palestinian Authority to regain control of its people and the patchwork of conflict-torn areas nominally under its command remains to be seen. *AFP*

Campaign garbage

COMMENTARY

John L. Silva

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo must put a stop to the wanton and indiscriminate posting of campaign materials throughout the country. She and her party's candidates should lower the tinted glass of their car windows to see what our country looks like today. It is as if someone has gone amuck plastering campaign posters in every nook and cranny of the country. The posters assault all sensibilities as they are pasted haphazardly like bad wallpaper.

With inadequate glue, the posters buckle, peel and flutter aimlessly at the first downpour. Enraged citizens tear at them and write graffiti. The country has just been transformed into an eyesore.

Have any of the People Power Coalition candidates gone back to the Edsa Shrine recently, dubbed by Jaime Cardinal Sin as a holy place? It was only a month and a few weeks ago when hundreds of thousands converged on this site and every morning, thousands of enlightened volunteers would clean up the place for the next rally. People Power was people discipline and love for cleanliness.

Now, look at the sacred place. Posters of PPC candidates are mercilessly glued on cement, on posts and every available space. A visitor wanting to see where Edsa II transpired would be dismayed and horrified. The sacred place, dear cardinal, now looks like a pigsty.

First of all, posting campaign materials in undesignated areas is illegal, plain and simple. Violation of this law by the President's own political party casts doubts about her party's commitment to abide by the law. For someone who recently had to prove her constitutional authority to be President, all the way up to the Supreme Court, a simple campaign law being broken with no intervention on her part strongly suggests inconsistency and a tendency to use the law when it fits the circumstances.

Look closely at where the posters are pasted. They are found on every column of the new MRT line, on waiting sheds, on factory walls, on lampposts and telephone lines and, with cruel abandon, in squatter and lower income communities. The effort to uglify the country is most evident where the poor and workers commute, at their job sites and where they live. Ironically, activist organizations and party-list organizations have joined the fray and are illegally pasting posters like traditional politicians.

These same posters are not found in the enclaves of the rich or outside their offices. And I would wager that none of these same law-breaking candidates or the President would want such posters pasted on the wall of their villas or Malacañang Palace. These candidates, by their actions, reveal themselves to be anti-poor, despising and disrespecting the constituents whose support they are supposed to be courting.

Yet when asked, the poor and working people do want a clean and aesthetically pleasing environment. Notice that in the poorest of slums, in the most remote of barrios, there exists community attempts to clean the surroundings and beautify the community with plants even if they sprout from rusted cans. Yet, every election time, they are absolutely powerless in checking the onslaught of posters dirtying up their clean neighborhoods, adding to their cynicism about politicians.

Why are there graffiti on walls throughout the country? The youth do it because every election time, their own walls are covered illegally with posters of wannabe lawmakers. After a while, the youth cannot distinguish the word "lawmaker" from "law breaker."

There is a surreal situation occurring each day in Manila in a span of 24 hours. On the road to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport each morning, newly appointed Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon has been fielding hardworking volunteers and city maintenance employees to pick up trash, dab a new coat of paint on walls and street islands to welcome tourists to a clean city. Later, in the dead of night, roving thugs plaster illegal campaign posters right on the newly painted walls.

Gordon was specifically chosen as tourism czar because of his record in attracting foreign investors. But in actuality, with nobody enforcing the ban on pasting campaign posters on public walls, the Macapagal administration is shooting down its tourism campaign as horrified tourists see a blighted, ugly city full of peeling and dirty campaign posters.

Election campaigns in neighboring Thailand are more sensible. Campaign posters are fastened by string to thin poles driven to the ground. The day after elections, the poles and the posters are easily removed and the city instantly returns to normality. Is there perhaps a correlation between a clean Thailand and getting visited by eight million tourists a year (and rising) or a dirty, defaced Philippines and having only two million visitors a year for the past how many years?

What do foreign investors look for when they check out a potential site for investment? Aside from comparative wage levels, language proficiency and potential ROI, they look at tell-tale signs of discipline, order and even cultural levels as they mentally prepare to be expats in the country. Imagine (it is not hard to do) a foreign investor being chauffeured from the airport through a city with no respect for red lights and seeing half-glued, flailing, campaign posters of candidates who once launched coups, tortured prisoners, or have been publicly declared as mentally unfit. Imagine the investor looking at the same posters of dubious candidates stuck on walls with signs saying no peeing, while at that moment someone is actually peeing on the same spot. Imagine the investor being driven along Roxas Boulevard whose graceful palm trees now have posters hammered to their trunks. Imagine the investor being driven past a spanking new National Museum whose walls have been desecrated with posters of toothy candidates. No matter how debonair, how sophisticated and worldly Trade Secretary Mar Roxas may be, the investor has just witnessed a country in a state of anarchy and with little regard for its cultural heritage. The investor reaches his hotel suite only to tell the concierge to book him on the next flight out of here.

Maybe most of those who participated in People Power II did so not just to rid the country of an incompetent president but also to begin a new regime of revitalized morals, standards and most important, the exercise of basic civility and laws. President Macapagal and her party can actually gain political advantage over their opponents by declaring an end to illegal posting of campaign materials. This trashing of a country in an election season is the hallmark of past traditional politics. A whole country—except the rich subdivisions—struggling to be beautiful and self-respecting is the victim of this depredation. It would be an opportunity for the President to take the high moral and aesthetic ground to eliminate this abominable national exercise in self-hate and, once and for all, send a powerful signal to her constituents that traditional and detestable campaign practices are a thing of the past.

Do people really vote on the basis of posters pasted indiscriminately beside piles of uncollected garbage, barely seen under overpasses, buried with Lose/Add Weight posters and the phone numbers of *tuberos*? Even the most mentally challenged see these posters today solely as clutter rather than helpful aids to recall names. Aside from the trash these posters produce, one can't help but ask how many precious trees were sacrificed or marvel at the vanity of politicians who think their mugshots and baptismal names look beautiful on those stinking walls.

If in the next few weeks, this garbage on the walls proliferate some more, let every citizen do his people power duty like he did at Edsa. Write "*trapo*" on those posters for all our fellow citizens to see. Then after a few days, scrape them and put them in a trash bag. To make a point, deliver the trash to the campaign headquarters of the candidates or if necessary to Malacañang. Document your defaced wall and have your civic group file a motion to disqualify the candidate. Organize your association to sue candidates who have littered your walls without permission. You pay association fees. Now, demand that politicians pay for the repainting of your walls.

We are given one country to love and honor. Let us not dirty it for the sake of senseless advertising. Candidates will win through persuasive arguments and good track record, not by defiling the whole country. President Macapagal—and if not her, then every citizen—must put an end to the illegal and offensive pasting of campaign posters if only to show she cares for this despoiled and pitiful land.

John L. Silva is a consultant at the National Museum.

Disturbing trend in the media

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BACOLOD—A report by Carla Gomez of the INQUIRER's Visayas bureau is disturbing not just for candidates but for all concerned citizens, especially those in the media. In her report, Gomez said some broadcast reporters in Bacolod are complaining that they are being "gagged" by management against reporting on certain candidates, especially those who hadn't "paid" their way.

I met with Gomez and other media people here and from what I heard, the full implications of this new policy are truly alarming. It seems that the media, but especially TV and radio stations, are taking the Fair Elections Act, recently signed into law, way beyond its spirit and intent. The new law, among other things, lifts the ad ban on candidates for political office. It should be recalled that the ad ban had been imposed, over the vigorous objection and intense lobbying of media entities, because only the very rich candidates could afford to pay for commercial airtime or for print ads, severely hampering the chances of poorer candidates.

One sad result of the ad ban, however, has been the rampant corruption of individual reporters and editors, who received money "under the table" for favorable comment on or just mere mention of candidates' names.

Now it seems the contagion of corruption has seeped beyond the individual level and has been institutionalized in the form of "arrangements" between candidates and media outlets. This goes far beyond the selling of commercial airtime to candidates for their radio or TV ads, or of newspaper space for print ads.

* * *

DON'T get me wrong. As a media professional, I supported the lifting of the ad ban, believing that it constituted no less than restraint on the legal trade of the media. If candidates were willing to buy ad space and time, they should be allowed to do so.

But ads are one thing, and news and public affairs content another. The selling of political advertisements should be clearly and explicitly separate from the preparation and presentation of news and commentary. Sadly, this principle is now being largely ignored, if not trampled as the election fever heats up.

What's been happening instead (and I understand that this is taking place all over the country), not just in Bacolod or Manila, is that media outlets, especially radio and TV, offer "packages" to candidates: so many minutes of exposure for so many days in the week for a certain fee. Candidates who opt for "arrangements" also benefit by way of regular phone call interviews from news anchors and commentators, and favorable commentary. Those who don't want to pay, or who can't afford to, are simply ignored or barred.

One reporter of a local radio station, for instance, was suspended from his post for reporting on the views of a candidate who didn't have an "arrangement" with management. Another station posted a sign saying that candidates who were not "authorized" by management were barred from entering the studios, though I understand that after Gomez's story came out, the sign was taken down.

* * *

GOMEZ quotes a radio station manager who complained that they could not raise profits, and thereby meet higher management's targets, "if some politicians would think that they could get in the news by paying reporters." Or, I might add, for free, as part of legitimate news coverage.

Loreto Lapuos, ABS-CBN Bacolod manager, told Gomez that news on candidates could be "free of charge" if the candidates could show that they did not have the money to pay for airtime. But he did admit that the station offers packages to candidates, though these news snippets are not identified to the viewing public as paid for, and are therefore advertisements.

This is what's most disturbing about this trend. There is increasingly a blurring of lines and boundaries between legitimate news and advertising. For what is it but advertising if the airtime or space is paid for? How could it be legitimate news if, because of the "special arrangement," it could not be written factually, objectively or responsibly?

Less-moneyed candidates who are running on issues and performance, including legitimate party-list groups, I might add, rely on the media to get their names and views out to the electorate. And because this is campaign season, interviewing candidates and grilling them on their performance, their stands on issues, their platform for action are all legitimate aspects of news gathering. Indeed, informing the public about the qualifications, record and thinking of candidates is a public responsibility. Commenting on the qualifications or lack of them of certain candidates and parties is also part and parcel of responsible commentary.

* * *

SO many people are sounding off about the need for responsible voting and voter education. And yet, how could voters responsibly and intelligently carry out their duty if their knowledge of candidates is sparse and spotty and built entirely on paid information?

The media play a very important role during election season. For many Filipinos, who cannot be reached by rallies, meetings or campaign materials such as flyers and brochures, knowledge about a candidate depends almost solely on media projection, on the (it is hoped) objective, unbiased, full and factual reporting on the candidate and on the issues he or she raises. Voters certainly deserve to know if what they're reading, watching or listening to is a paid advertisement or part of the mainstream news operation. This distinction must be clear and consistent.

I do hope it is not too late for the Commission on Elections or any other concerned body to ask the KBP and the National Press Club to curb this distressing trend. Certainly the "enterprise" of individual reporters, editors and columnists on the take should be stamped out. But it would not be correcting the problem of corruption in the media to have management and owners take their place in feeding off the trough.

The wrong fish

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

PICTURE this: You are 78 years old, well past retirement but relishing the remaining years of good health, and more important, basking in the love and respect of your family and the high esteem of a nation you have faithfully served. One day you get the shock of your life. You are told you've been found guilty of corruption in connection with a decision you made as a public servant 13 years ago. Now you are being sentenced to a jail term of 15 years. All your achievements evaporate before your eyes, and the stigma of a conviction stalks you like a cruel joke. People who don't know you celebrate the event as a triumph of justice. At last, here is the big fish that didn't get away, they would say.

Your friends comfort you, trusting implicitly in your innocence, but they are dying to know what happened so they can defend you. And you find yourself trying to summon enough will and equanimity to explain a case whose arguments rest on an appreciation of the technicalities of our tax laws—the issue of what to allow or disallow as deductions from a tax base or why a tax should not be levied on a tax, etc.

This is exactly what has happened to Benny Tan. At his age, he should not need to defend himself like a common felon. He was president and chief operating officer of countless companies. He capped a distinguished career in the public and private sectors by becoming our country's ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. He was nearing retirement when President Corazon Aquino asked him to head the Bureau of Internal Revenue in the heady years following Edsa I.

It was December 1988, and Tan had been in office for more than two years. After a series of reviews of a disputed tax assessment dating back to the time he assumed the position, he found himself approving an offer of a compromise settlement from the taxpayer, San Miguel Corp. The offer had been thoroughly studied and its acceptance had been recommended by ranking officials of the BIR's prosecution and legal divisions.

Then, more than four years later, from out of the blue, the Ombudsman resurrected this decision from the files and used it as the basis for a graft case against him, two of his subordinates, and two officials of San Miguel Corp. By then, Benny Tan was no longer BIR chief, and he had to take care of his own defense.

The investigators from the Office of the Ombudsman charged him with entering into an illegal compromise agreement that allowed SMC to settle an alleged tax obligation of about P293 million for only P10 million. They considered the settlement to be "unlawful and entered into in bad faith and manifest partiality causing undue prejudice to the government." They accused Tan of "conspiring and confederating" with his subordinate officials and the representatives of the firm.

The Supreme Court, if not the Sandiganbayan itself, which has convicted Benny Tan, may hopefully realize what a grave injustice has been committed here against an honest man.

I consider myself a friend of Benny Tan, and I begged him to share with me the documents of his case. In the interest of fairness, but without going into the merits of the case, I think it is important to bring to public notice the following:

1. The amount of P293 million alleged as the tax deficiency of SMC was not a final levy but only an initial assessment that the taxpayer had a right to protest, and, in fact, did protest. Ironically, the deficiency surfaced after the new management of SMC had voluntarily reported that they spotted a mistake in the computation of the ad valorem tax they were paying and wished to correct this. Subsequent reviews by various BIR divisions, following SMC's protest, showed this initial estimate to be excessive and incorrect.

2. The law gives the BIR commissioner the prerogative to enter into a compromise agreement when there is doubt about the validity of a claim against a taxpayer.

3. The compromise settlement with SMC was fully documented and transparent, and the pertinent documents relied upon by the Sandiganbayan indeed formed part of Tan's own defense.

4. The cases against Tan's co-accused—the two other BIR ranking officials and the two SMC officials—were subsequently withdrawn by the Ombudsman, thus rendering the charge of conspiracy empty. The Ombudsman also stated they had no evidence of bribery or financial interest or benefit on the part of any of the accused in this case.

5. Benny Tan's successors in the BIR refused to collect the supposed tax deficiency of P293 million from SMC, believing that this figure was not correct, but unlike Tan, they were never charged. The Sandiganbayan decision orders the BIR to collect from the SMC what it supposedly owes the government. It is doubtful that the present commissioner would abide by this order, but even if he does, SMC will surely contest it. The final arbiter of what constitutes the proper tax will be the Tax Appeals Court, not the Sandiganbayan. If Benny Tan is sent to jail now, and the Tax Appeals Court rules later that the supposed tax liabilities of the SMC have no basis, it may be easy to release him from prison. But I don't think it would be as easy to restore his honor.

It is sad that the renewed crusade against corruption should result in the victimization of an honest person. For nothing weakens the resolve against wrongdoing more than the failure of our justice system to nail down the real offenders: those who flout our legal and moral system brazenly and get away with it. In Benny Tan, the Sandiganbayan has not caught the big fish; it has caught the wrong fish.

* * *

Comments are welcome at rdavid@pacific.net.ph

JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR., Editor

INQUIRER Voter's Voice ELEKSYON 2001 GMA
ABS-CBN CNN QTV NBC

Let's hear it for, by and of the people

WHAT does a yuppie from Makati, a housewife from Bulacan and a priest from Quezon have in common? Nothing, of course. Yet, during a recent focus group discussion conducted by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, they all expressed one thing in common—a deep concern for the upcoming elections.

The INQUIRER listened to each of the 22 representatives from various sectors to define for the INQUIRER the concerns **(See article below)** that the senatorial candidates must address in the May 14 elections.

They talked, we listened. What they said was nothing new, which did not strike us as odd. Only that it was about time (wow, yes!) to get cracking at long last on these concerns. After People Power II, where the people made all the difference, listening to their concerns is the least the candidates for national office can do. They wouldn't be where they are without the people, right?

As part of an electoral coverage campaign with GMA Network, RGMA, Catholic Mass Media Network, New Media, Inq7.Net, Radio Veritas, and the Nation Broadcasting Corp., the INQUIRER will embark on an issues-driven, citizen-based coverage involving regular sections (like this one) in the paper devoted entirely to what voters need to know and want their candidates to care about. The agenda of the people will be the INQUIRER's primary concern. In other words, our concern is that the voter's voice must be heard. Now.

Candidates must demonstrate a strong understanding of the needs of the voting public. While integrity and a solid track-record of achievements are crucial, they must also have a clear position on critical issues. They must be judged not by their charisma, good looks and popularity but by their sincerity, competence and, most important, by their ability to address the here-and-now concerns of the people.

In our succeeding issues, we intend to pin down candidates on their attitudes toward these concerns and what they are going to do about them. What we are saying is that we will not allow the agenda of the candidates to dominate the campaign. The INQUIRER is only concerned with the people's concerns. That is the only agenda in this electoral campaign. *Celine R. Madamba*

Want to be a senator? Listen to citizens'

'Balance foreign investments with social and environmental impact'

Nicanor Perlas, *president, Center for Alternative Development Initiatives and member, Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino II*

Kompil II will push its election agenda and forge a covenant with candidates. We will call for a change in the country's development framework, from the free-market neo-liberal approach promoted by the so-called Washington consensus (World Bank, IMF, etc.) to a new institutional economics, which in the country is called comprehensive sustainable development. For the economy to develop, society's institutions must be strong. If the system of governance is weak, the economy will collapse. That's why, candidates should look at society as a whole, although there are sectoral agenda.

The environment agenda is usually an afterthought because in the conventional development framework, the concept is to grow now and pay later. We need to structure our development process so that we don't detroy the base of our economic development. For instance, the controversial Mining Act, which seeks to lure foreign investors into the country at the expense of the communities. This is an example of a law that puts the interest of the foreigners before the interest of Filipinos. That's why we must balance our need for foreign investments with their social and environmental impact. Globalization has become a race to the bottom. So it is important that we come up with a framework that does not destroy the environment in exchange for temporary economic gains.

'Stop making politics a cottage industry'

Fr. Raul "Puti" Enriquez, *vice chair, Gomburza:*

We should start evangelizing politics because politics de-humanizes Filipinos. Because of politics, you would maim, kill and cheat. You would do anything in the name of politics.

Evangelizing, however, should be a two-way street. The voters and candidates should change. Voters should stop asking for money from candidates, who in turn are given a reason to bribe voters even before the elections.

It's a gospel imperative for the people to reflect on the worsening political situation. After the national euphoria as a result of Edsa II, we now have national amnesia. We are repeating the mistakes of Edsa I.

Just because someone was at Edsa I, he was given a government position.

Politics consumed the Filipino, when we should have total human development. Politics is just one aspect. We are also a social, moral and spiritual being.

This is why we need to evangelize politics. The challenge to all Filipinos is to stop making politics a cottage industry. It is not a means to preserve the interests of one's family. It should be the other way around. It should be a means to serve. A candidate should say, 'I am here to serve the people.'

I ask politicians who are seeking my advice, if they are really sincere in running for public office and in serving the people. I bring them to the Blessed Sacrament and tell them 'do not run' if politics is just an occasion for them to commit sin and they don't have integrity and credibility.

'We must know who candidate is indebted to'

George Francisco, *Gomburza*

We should look into the campaign financing of candidates. Campaign financing is the first test of a candidate before he is elected. This is where we can test a candidate's sincerity. If he is not transparent now, how can he be transparent once elected? This is where he may begin to sell out or compromise. Who are his supporters? We should know the people he owes *utang na loob* (debt of gratitude). We have a statutory spending limit of P3 for every registered voter. Candidates are required to publish their expenses. But no one has really bothered to examine whether they claimed to have spent was what they really spent.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said at the impeachment trial that it was so easy get rich during a campaign period. All of us heard of reports that Lucio Tan gave millions to a candidate's campaign kitty.

If one can not be honest about his campaign finances, how can we trust him when he gets elected?

'KRAs for candidates'

Benjie de la Peña, *Ayala Corp. (young professional)*

Instead of giving motherhood statements, each candidate should have KRAs (key result areas). They can set their sights on reducing poverty by this much. Or they can say that there will be no demolition by this time.

I also would like to see the government paying allowance to students so that they could stay at school. In poor areas, by the third grade, three out of 10 students leave school to work to help augment their parents' income.

'Go back to basics'

Dennis Bejasa, *Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils (professional)*

It all boils down to going back to the basics. If we can choose the people who can solve problems such as garbage, traffic congestion and pollution. If they cannot solve these problems, what more of those concerning the students and women?

We also have to look at people who served Ferdinand Marcos and those that were with former President Corazon Aquino. They are still around. But what have they done for the country?

'Asserting rights of women to reproduce or not'

Karen Tañada, *board member, Women's Action for National Development*

A controversial issue is the women's right to reproductive health. This is where conflict with the Church arises. The Church considers the issue pro-abortion. It is not. It is just asserting the right of women to decide whether to give birth, not have children, or have many children. We want candidates to support efforts to provide women information on services and their choices with regards to their health and reproduction. In terms of legislative agenda, a law was passed on domestic violence. A law on trafficking women had been passed by the House of Representatives. It is pending in the Senate. There is also a bill on prostitution. It is against prostitution but not the prostitute.

We are also raising the basic issue of women's participation in government. Ideally, women must comprise 50 percent of the candidates of political parties. These are general issues but all issues are women issues.

Elsa Payumo, *TOWNS (women)*

I am concerned with women's rights and prostitution. Poverty has pushed young women into prostitution. I am pushing for a focused budget for training and livelihood options for young prostitutes.

Martha Pineda, *Inner Wheel-Makati*

My main concern is to stop candidates from making promises because when they get elected, they forget their promises. They should just do their job and help the community.

They should also help enhance the involvement of the youth in the community. Bold movies are another concern of mine. I have four children and they see these on TV anytime of the day.

Baby Golez, *Inner Wheel-Makati*

I expect our candidates to focus first on good governance and second on making the government truly for the people, not just for a selected few. *Dapat wala na yung kai-kaibigan o kumpa-kumpare.* This is to set a new set of standard of leadership for future public servants. We expect our government to focus on creating a strong middle class society by creating job opportunities and reducing red tape.

'Money for coco levy fund to return to farmers'

Ananias Loza, *Pakisama (farmers)*

Farmers, fisherfolk and women have specific issues that must be addressed. Foremost is the unequal distribution of the country's wealth, the root cause of our poverty. This problem can be addressed if the government implements genuine agrarian reform. The government must do away with the corporative scheme, which weakens the agrarian reform program. Also, the government must pass the National Land Use and Water Act. This is important in ensuring the country's food security.

Another issue that we want to raise is the coco levy fund. The money collected from small coconut farmers must be returned to them. At present, a coconut farmer with five hectares is not earning enough to feed a family of six.

We are also concerned with the allocation of seats under the party list system. The basic sectors must get bigger representation in Congress. What we have now are more than 200 party list groups vying for seats in the House of Representatives.

'No safety nets'

Tetchie Capillan, *Urduja (farmers)*

Candidates claim they are for the masses and that they will seek an end to poverty. Study shows that the majority of the poor are in the countryside. In fact, the problems in urban areas are tied with poverty in the countryside. The poor will not migrate to Manila to look for work if they have better lives in the provinces. The anti-poverty agenda of candidates are not clear.

Our problems in the agricultural sector are due to the World Trade Organization. Reformists in government, members of civil society and some economists agree that the country's accession to the WTO in 1995 should be reviewed.

There's no problem with joining WTO. The problem lies with the safety nets that proponents of WTO had promised. They promised to increase the budget for agriculture by P26 billion over and above the existing budget.

The candidates should focus on the safety nets and adjustment measures.

'One-stop-shop for the poor'

Apolonia Tolentino, *Urban Land Reform Task Force*

Napakahalagang isyu na lagi na lang ipinagdarasal ng mga maralita ay yung implementation *ng* Republic 7279, or the Urban Development and Housing Act).

Since the law was enacted, the urban poor have suffered because of unjust demolition of their homes. We want Section 28 on just and humane eviction and Section 18 on balanced housing implemented. Also important to us is the creation of a local housing board.

We want the proposed Magna Carta for the Urban Poor and National Land and Water Use Act passed and Presidential Decree 1818 repealed. PD 1818 prevents the filing for a temporary restraining order on demolition. The proposed Land and Water Use Act is not only for the urban poor. It is also for the basic sectors. Then there is a need to establish a Department of Housing that will have a one stop shop for the poor so that we are not thrown like ping-pong.

The urban poor do not benefit from the government's socialized program. Additional budget must be set aside for the program. Developing the community mortgage program is also our concern. Finally, the urban poor must not be relocated to the mountains, where there are no jobs. This is particularly true for those who were uprooted from communities at Manila's piers.

Relocatee from Tondo

From Tondo, we were brought to Norzagaray, Bulacan. The fares from Manila to Bulacan are so high. Until now there is no electricity, water supply and jobs. Because there is no electricity, rape and stabbing incidents are happening. We complained to an inter-agency group, but nothing much has happened because the police are not doing their job. *"Bantay salakay sila."*

Arsenia Valenzuela, *Samasama (urban poor) from the National Government Center in Quezon City.*

Our pleas for an end to demolition in the four barangays comprising the national government center have fallen on deaf ears. If relocation is inevitable, the urban poor must be transferred to areas within the city.

We are requesting that all proclamations and orders affecting the urban poor be clearly explained to us.

At the East Side of the National Government Center, which was classified as a mixed-used area, houses are being awarded to outsiders.

President Macapagal-Arroyo visited us on Jan. 31. We told her our situation. On Feb. 2, we were told that the government was still reviewing our case.

We also want that local housing boards be established and that the proposed National Land and Water Use Act be certified as an urgent bill.

'For a Lake Lanao Dev't Authority'

Datu Haj Ansari Alonto, *Victims of Mindanao War*

Peace and order is our main concern. We have the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) and Abu Sayyaf. The country's economy is affected as long as there's trouble in Mindanao. So our approach should be wholistic. All sectors of society must be involved.

I am thankful that the government has lifted its all-out war policy in Mindanao. The problem remains because we have separate negotiations with the MILF and MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front). The MNLF is demanding a bigger territory. We will lose if we submit it to a plebiscite. The MILF wants a smaller area.

Since 1986, I have been fighting for the creation of the Lake Lanao Development Authority (LLDA). An ecological disaster ensued because the National Power Corp. did not like LLDA. Napocor wanted to directly deal with municipal mayors around Lake Lanao. They buy mayors vehicles and guns. The problems in Lake Lanao persist.

'Understand who we are'

Samira Ali Gutoc, *Mindanao youth*

Our agenda for the Muslim people in the elections is for the senatorial candidates to fully commit to a policy on minorities.

What do they think of the inequity issue? How are they going to address it? What is the politician's view of the right to self-determination?

We also want politicians to explicitly say what their commitment is to the proposed "Marshall Plan" for Mindanao.

What are their views on dynasties? It's a Mindanao reality especially in Central Mindanao.

There's no Muslim vote to speak of because we have no unity. Media can help make us conscious of the need for unity. Without unity, we have no strength.

With that, we call on the media to present the public with images of babies born in evacuation camps. I like to see women who are haggard and cooking at the evacuation centers on the front page because this will touch the politicians into addressing the centuries-old problem of inequity in Mindanao.

'Democratic rights for students'

Pat Gallardo, *Ateneo student*

First, we want to know the candidate's stand on tuition increases.

Second, we want to have an institutionalized consultation process. We don't know how it's gonna happen. They say it's there. GMA (President Macapagal-Arroyo) says it's there. We can't see it. *Di puedeng pasalamatan na lang ang kabataan dahil sa* role *nila sa* People Power II.

And third, teaching quality must be addressed.

Christina Palabay, *NUSP head (UP student)*

After the tuition increases, we are asking those who are running for the Senate to review the Education Act of 1982. It was enacted to deregulate tuition. Tuition is like oil prices, once deregulated, it keeps on going up.

The biggest increase is 35 percent or P542 per unit. Because of the high cost of education, enrollment in schools like Arellano University has dropped. From a high of 18,000, its enrolment fell to 1,500.

The third agenda is the democratic rights of students. Many student councils and publications have been closed.

The fourth agenda refers to political prisoners. We have not heard of any detained students being released. One such case is that of Lor Piñon of San Sebastian College.

'Education accessible to handicapped'

Elmer de Leon, *chair, Bigay Buhay Foundation (handicapped)*

I want the government to make education accessible. Making buildings like malls and schools physically accessible is different from making education affordable and accessible to the handicapped.

Most of the handicapped are poor. That's why we are sent to institutions or relegated to cottage industries. Politicians use us when they give donations. After that we are forgotten. *Nagiging* professional beggars *na lang kami.*

Masakit man sabihin but we are being abused by the political system.

In the provinces, the situation of the handicapped is worse. Many remain poor because they were not able to go to school. If they did, they are not able to finish their education. So, the cycle of poverty remains.

We also need livelihood projects. The government and NGOs can help so that the handicapped will become productive. That way, we don't keep on asking for help and we avoid being used come election time.

The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

POWERFUL explosives have shattered large parts of this towering stone statue of the Buddha, which is hewn from the cliff side in the central Bamiyan province of Afghanistan. The country's ruling Taliban have ordered the destruction of Buddha statues in the country. REUTERS

UN General Assembly urges Taliban to protect legacy

UNITED NATIONS—Calling the Taliban's planned destruction of Buddhist statues "an irreplaceable loss for humanity," the UN General Assembly urged the religious militia Friday to honor its previous commitments to protect Afghanistan's cultural heritage.

A resolution sponsored by more than 100 countries and approved by consensus urged the Taliban to take immediate action to prevent further destruction of the irreplaceable relics, monuments and artifacts.

It called on all UN members "to help, through appropriate technical measures, to safeguard the sculptures, including, if necessary, their temporary relocation or removal from public view."

The non-binding resolution was approved as opposition forces in Afghanistan reported that powerful explosives had shattered large parts of two towering stone statues of Buddha, hewn from the cliff side in central Bamiyan province. The report could not be independently confirmed.

The Taliban, who rule about 95 percent of the country, were not immediately available for comment and have refused to allow anyone to go to Bamiyan to verify conflicting claims about the extent of the damage to the third- and fifth-century carvings.

The General Assembly resolution, introduced by Germany, said "the destruction of the statues in Afghanistan, in particular the unique Buddhist sculptures in Bamiyan, would be an irreparable loss for humanity as a whole."

It "strongly calls upon the Taliban to abide by their previous commitments to protect Afghanistan's cultural heritage from all acts of vandalism, damage and theft."

Germany's deputy UN Ambassador Hanns Heinrich Schumacher said the Taliban had made these commitments to Secretary General Kofi Annan's personal envoy to Afghanistan, Francesc Vendrell, to UN organizations including Unesco, which is in charge of protecting cultural treasures, and to envoys of several governments.

Japan's UN Ambassador Yukio Satoh requested that the resolution be conveyed to the Taliban. General Assembly spokesperson Sue Markham said it would be forwarded immediately.

Schumacher said it was important that the resolution was adopted on the eve of Annan's trip to Pakistan because it will give him authority to present not only the Security Council's view and his own "but the view of world opinion."

The controversy began Feb. 26 when the Taliban's supreme leader Mullah Mohammed Omar ordered all statues in Afghanistan demolished, saying they were idolatrous and against Islam. *AP*

Admirals see simulation of sub search

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—Navy admirals watched a computerized simulation Friday of the periscope search conducted before a US submarine struck and sank a Japanese fishing vessel.

The video showed how easy it would have been for USS Greeneville Cmdr. Scott Waddle and another officer to miss the boat in choppy seas and overcast skies with only 80 seconds devoted to the search.

It also showed how the 54-meter ship would have been clearly visible had Waddle conducted a standard three-minute search at a higher power and depth.

Vice Adm. John Nathman, who is presiding over a Navy court of inquiry into the collision, said the court would not draw sweeping conclusions based on the re-enactment.

"There's nothing absolute about this," he said. "This is a way of finding out what we can diverge from."

Navy Capt. Thomas Kyle, who assisted the National Transportation Safety Board in its investigation, said the simulations factored in the depth of the submarine, the length of the periscope search, the weather conditions the day of the accident and the size and coloring of the Ehime Maru.

The high school fisheries training vessel sank in 600 meters of water south of Oahu after the Greeneville surfaced underneath it while conducting a rapid-ascent drill on Feb. 9. Nine men and boys were killed. *AP*

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Wahid visits Madura

JAKARTA—Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid yesterday visited Madura island to meet thousands of refugees who fled a bloody ethnic conflict in central Borneo.

Wahid has come under heavy criticism for his response to the violence in which indigenous Dayak mobs killed almost 500 people, mostly migrants from Madura and their descendants. Many of the victims were beheaded in the rampage that started two weeks ago.

More than 70,000 people fled, most to Madura or Indonesia's main island of Java. The refugees, who came to Borneo over the years under a state resettlement scheme, now face an uncertain future and are demanding government support.

Wahid has promised them food and money, but has so far failed to offer a solution to their plight.

On Thursday, Wahid visited Borneo's Central Kalimantan province, the scene of the slaughter, on what was supposed to be a peace mission. *AP*

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Ariel to meet Arafat in bid to end violence

REUTERS

A PALESTINIAN holds a burning picture of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon during a demonstration in the West Bank city of Tulkarm, March 9. More than 15,000 Palestinians marched calling for more suicide bombing against Israeli targets.

JERUSALEM—Israel's new Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has said he wants to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in a bid to end more than five months of violence, in an apparent easing of his hardline position.

Sharon, who earlier stipulated there could be no talks with Arafat until peace was restored on the ground, made his concession in a message to Arafat after taking office on Thursday, his spokesperson Raanan Gissin said.

That message followed a modification of Arafat's own stance in a congratulatory message to Sharon following his swearing in on Wednesday.

"I believe that the only way to reach peace is by dialogue and through direct negotiations, on the basis of the written and signed agreements and obligations between us," according to the text of the letter provided by the prime minister's office.

"I hope we can find a way of establishing personal contacts soon to put an end to the cycle of bloodshed, violence and incitement to violence, and to renew the economic and security cooperation, while embarking on a return to genuine peace."

Gissin stressed, however, that an eventual Sharon-Arafat meeting "would not constitute a relaunch of the peace negotiations, but would cover ways of re-establishing calm on the ground."

"To relaunch the negotiations, the Palestinian violence must stop first," he said.

But the Palestinians remained cautious, with Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's political bureau, asserting that Sharon's positions are "very far removed from a true Israeli desire for peace and are rejected by the Palestinians."

Sharon does not want to discuss "the issues of Jerusalem, Palestinian refugees and the settlements" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Qaddumi said, adding that Sharon wants a future Palestinian state to be "founded on 42 percent (of the West Bank), which is a return to the past."

Arafat had called on Sharon to resume negotiations based on signed agreements, an apparent easing of the earlier Palestinian position that talks should continue from the point of negotiations in July at Camp David and in January at Taba, neither of which yielded agreements.

An opinion poll published Friday in Israeli daily Yediot Aharonot showed that 85 percent of Israelis want peace talks to resume with the Palestinians, although most insist that violence end first.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, a dove in the cross-party but right-leaning government, told Sharon in their first working meeting Thursday that talks should resume immediately with the Palestinians despite the violence.

The poll also showed 79 percent of Israelis were in favour of a physical border between Israel and the Palestinian territories, which former premier Ehud Barak threatened several times to impose. *AFP*

Ruling party argues Mori resignation

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori was to meet with the leaders of his ruling party Saturday, and was expected to express his intention to resign after the passage of this year's budget later this month.

Mori and the leaders of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party were to meet behind closed doors late Saturday. According to reports in most major newspapers, Mori was expected to confirm that he would resign after the budget is passed.

Whether or not Mori, one of Japan's most unpopular prime ministers in decades, would step down has been the subject of intense speculation for weeks. Party leaders had leaked several resignation scenarios to the media, only to have them denied by Mori and his aides.

Mori's meeting with party leaders yesterday was to be closed to the media, and no official press conference was scheduled.

According to reports in most major newspapers, Mori and other party leaders were concerned that an official announcement of Mori's intention to resign would hinder his ability to carry out government business before actually stepping down.

They were also reportedly concerned of the effect it might have on a summit meetings Mori is scheduled to have with US President George W. Bush on March 19 and Russian President Vladimir Putin on March 25.

Even so, Mori discussed the issue with party secretary general Makoto Koga late Friday night and had agreed that he would resign after the budget passage, according to the Asahi, a major newspaper.

Mori took office in April after Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi suffered a fatal stroke and his tenure has since been marred by scandals and frequent verbal gaffes, including remarks similar to the jingoism of Japan's wartime leaders.

His public support ratings have plunged to the single-digit level, making him the second-most unpopular prime minister Japan has had since World War II.

He survived a no-confidence motion earlier this week, the second in five months, but opposition party officials are considering whether to submit a censure motion against him next week.

That was also not likely to pass, because the opposition lacks the votes. Concerns over the effect the political storms are having on this country's nascent economic recovery have been deepening.

Underscoring the concerns, Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told Parliament on Thursday that the nation's finances are "near collapse," sending shudders through currency markets. Mori's continuing problems have also made the ruling coalition nervous because elections for the upper house of Parliament are scheduled for July. *AP*

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THE WOMEN FROM GUANGXI

A group of attendants from China's southern Guangxi region obliges a photographer who wants to take the picture of a Chinese military delegate with the women before the start of sessions of the National People's Congress in Beijing, March 10.

Britain reports 2nd wave of foot-and-mouth disease

LONDON—British authorities reported a second wave of foot-and-mouth disease being spread by cattle, as a record 20 new cases of the contagious livestock virus were confirmed.

The highest daily toll to date, bringing the total number of outbreaks to 127 across Britain, including one in Northern Ireland, deepened the gloom in the country's beleaguered agriculture industry.

Chief veterinary officer Jim Scudamore warned a nervous public that things could get worse before they get better.

He also warned against complacency in observing strict rules on transport of animals.

Meanwhile the world famous Badminton horse trials, due to start on May 3, were called off, as the event takes place in a rural area of central England surrounded by livestock farms.

"This is a very sad day," event director Hugh Thomas said. "We completely understand and support the view that any risk of spreading this awful disease is unacceptable."

Scudamore told a news conference here that foot-and-mouth, first reported more than two weeks ago, seemed to be spreading most rapidly now among cattle that had come into contact with infected sheep.

Cattle have a greater ability to generate and disperse the virus.

"I must emphasize that we're still caught up in a serious disease problem, which may well get worse before it gets better," Scudamore said.

"There have been signs that some people felt the problem was over and that the tight controls under which the country has been operating were no longer required.

"This could have caused some complacency in observing the rules."

Among Friday's new cases was a sheep farm in Somerset, southwest England, a county which had up to now escaped the disease.

Earlier this week Scudamore had suggested that the highly infectious virus seemed to be stabilizing. *AFP*

Fujimori faces human rights suits

LIMA—Peru's justice minister said the country's former President Alberto Fujimori could possibly face human rights charges in Japan if there was evidence he ordered the execution of leftist rebels to end the 1997 hostage crisis.

Justice Minister Diego Garcia Sayan told reporters Friday that Fujimori could be tried in Japan if there was enough evidence to show that Peruvian commandos secretly executed leftist rebels in the raid to free hostages from the Japanese ambassador's residence.

"When we are talking about an international crime of this nature, it can be dealt with by any judge if the country is a member of the respective international (human rights) treaty," Garcia Sayan said.

"It could be a judge from Peru, a judge from Japan or a judge from any of the European nations."

A Japanese Embassy spokesman was not immediately available for comment on the minister's remarks. Calls to Japan's justice and foreign ministries in Tokyo were also unanswered early Saturday.

All 14 Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement rebels were killed in a military assault ordered by Fujimori that led to the rescue of all but one of the 72 hostages and ended a four-month siege.

Relatives of the rebels earlier this year alleged that the rebels did not die in the fighting but were executed late. The relatives accused Fujimori, his fugitive ex-intelligence chief Vladimiro Montesinos and former military chief retired Gen. Nicolas Hermosa of human rights violations and extra-judicial murder.

Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, fled to his ancestral homeland and was fired by Congress in November amid mounting corruption scandals surrounding Montesinos. *AP*

Teenager gets life for death of little girl

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida—A boy who says he was imitating body-slamming pro wrestlers when he killed a little girl at age 12 was sentenced to life in prison without parole after a judge refused to reduce his first-degree murder conviction.

Tears rolled down Lionel Tate's cheeks as the boy, now 14, was led away in handcuffs and leg shackles Friday to begin serving the sentence, which was mandatory under a tough-on-crime Florida law enacted in the mid-1990s.

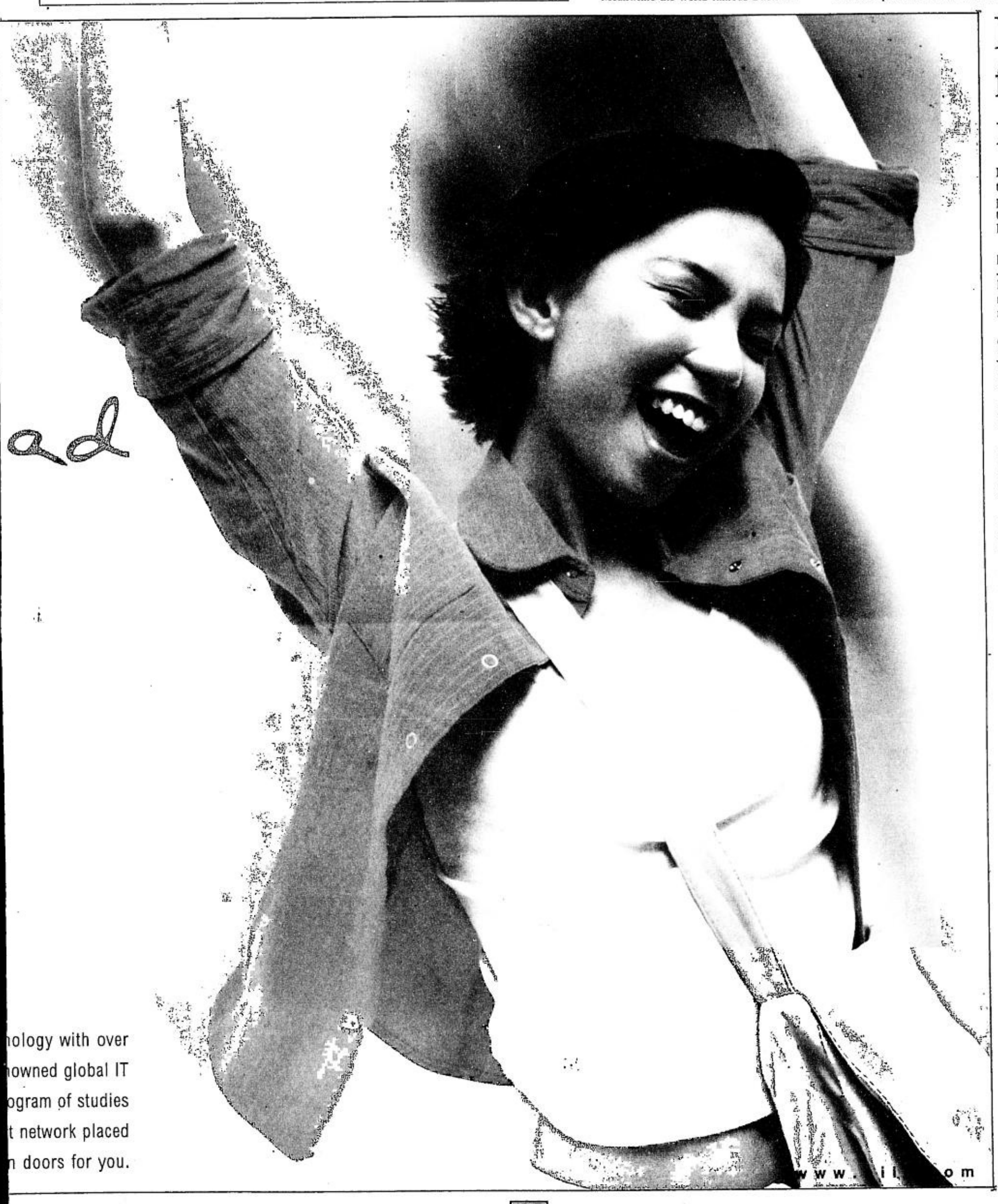
Tate becomes one of the youngest defendants in the United States ever to be sentenced to spend the rest of his life behind bars.

The prosecutor himself suggested the sentence was too harsh, but he also noted that the boy's lawyer and his mother had repeatedly rejected a plea bargain that would have meant only three years in a juvenile prison.

In imposing sentence, Judge Joel Lazarus called the slaying of 6-year-old Tiffany Eunick "cold, callous and indescribably cruel."

Tate was found guilty Jan. 25 of beating Tiffany to death at his home. Tiffany suffered a fractured skull, a lacerated liver and more than 30 other injuries on July 28, 1999, from being punched, kicked, stomped and thrown.

During the trial, the defense argued that the 76-kg boy did not mean to kill the 21-kg girl and thought he could body-slam people and they would walk away unhurt, just like his wrestling idols on television. *AP*



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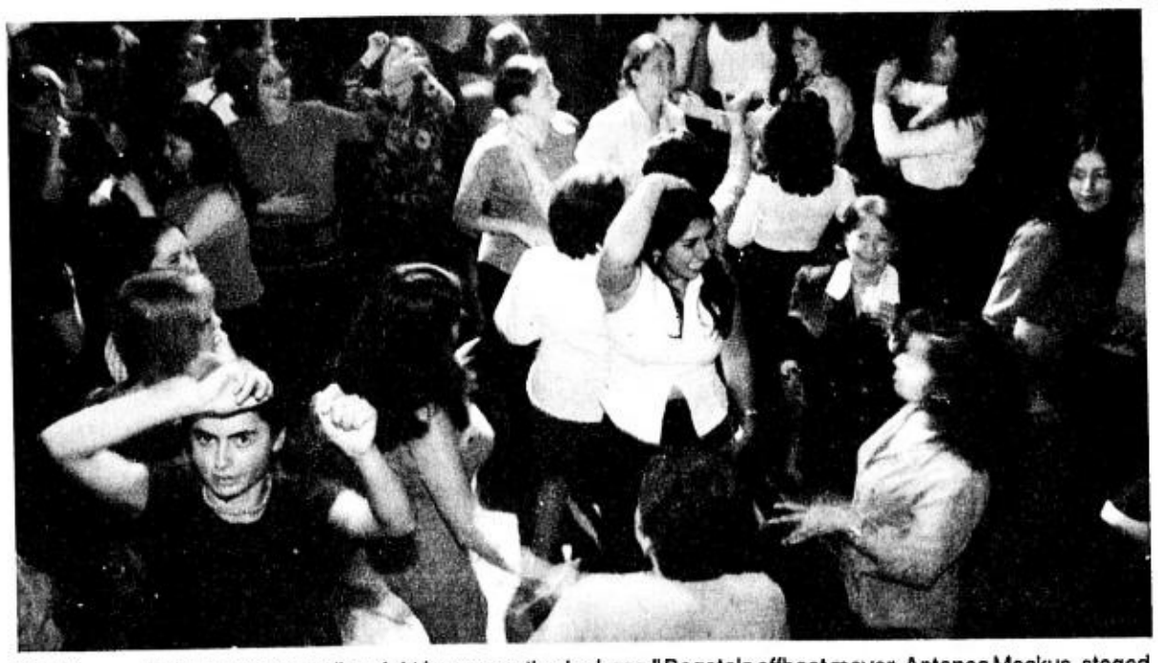
NIGHT WITHOUT MEN

From break-dancers to cops, Bogota women man the city



IN AN appeal to the sexes "to walk a night in one another's shoes," Bogota's offbeat mayor, Antanas Mockus, staged a "Night Without Men," imposing a voluntary curfew to encourage women to go out and dance until dawn and men to stay home and watch the kids. This shot showing women dancing was taken at a Bogota club March 9. AP

BOGOTA—When the phone number of Bivian Rodriguez's boyfriend popped up on her cellphone, she answered—and then abruptly hung up on him.

"Tonight boyfriends and husbands don't exist," said Rodriguez, 26, a business student who joined 14 female friends to drink and dance Friday night in a trendy Bogota nightclub. "This is our night, not theirs."

In an appeal to the sexes to "walk a night in one another's shoes," Bogota's offbeat mayor, Antanas Mockus, staged a "Night Without Men"—imposing a voluntary curfew encouraging women to go out and dance until dawn and men to stay home and watch the kids.

Thousands of women in Colombia's capital took advantage of city-sponsored activities: partying at women-only concerts, riding bikes down blocked streets and even break-dancing in the city's central park until well after midnight.

Women staffed the city's fire trucks, and most of the male police officers were given the night off to let their 1,500 female colleagues patrol the streets. Chief Jorge Enrique Lenaris even resigned his position for the night to let Col. Gloria Cardilla take the reins of Bogota's police force.

Dozens of bars and restaurants offered free drinks and food discounts to attract those enjoying the ladies' night out. A strip club in a swank north of Bogota neighborhood even scrapped its normal lineup of exotic female dancers and hired men to strut their stuff for hundreds of euphoric ladies.

"This is our night to be bad," said Monica Benavedez, a 19-year-old architecture student at the National University of Colombia who waited to see the show in a line that stretched around the block. "After this we're going to another strip club."

Men hitting the streets were asked to carry a "safe-conduct" pass listing their excuse for being out. The passes, which some men dubbed "passports for love," could be clipped from newspapers, printed off the Internet or picked up at any police station.

In some parts of the city, the thousands of men who ignored the rules and headed out on the prowl without a permit strolled past police and women who did nothing more than give them some dirty looks.

But in other neighborhoods women overran the streets, drinking, dancing and screaming at the top of their lungs—forcing men into hiding.

"I feel like a new person, I love my husband but it's nice to be here without him," said Sandra Lopez, 33, who together with her 1-year-old daughter Maria and her 76-year-old mother, Silvia, yelled "Go Home!" at passing men in a jampacked city park.

Not far away, droves of women blocked traffic to pound on the windows and hoods of cars being driven by men.

"It's a good thing they only did this one night," said Conrado Gomez, 42, who braved the taunts of hundreds of women to have dinner with his wife, 35-year-old Irma Puentes. "The city can only take one night of this."

Meanwhile, 34-year-old tax lawyer David Augustine said he did not mind staying at home with his three children while his cashier wife, Betsy de Augustine, went to a movie with female friends.

"I am happy she is having a good time in a unique way," said Augustine, as he waited in line at McDonald's late Friday. "I don't mind being the baby sitter. But I don't cook—I don't know how."

Mockus, the creator of the sex-specific curfew, spent a quiet night at home, playing with and reading stories to his 4-year-old daughter, Lima. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Dutch doc examines Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR—After months of legal wrangling, a Dutch physician examined Malaysia's jailed former deputy premier, Anwar Ibrahim, on Saturday and determined that he needs special surgery for potentially crippling back injuries. But Dr. Thomas Hoogland made no immediate decision whether he could perform the surgery at Kuala Lumpur General Hospital—as the government has insisted—or would need to do it elsewhere. The government refuses to let Anwar leave the country for the surgery, as his family had wanted. *AP*

Australia's place in int'l community

AUSTRALIAN Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, in a recent speech at the National Press Club in Canberra, identified the size and strength of Australia's economy as a key factor in Australia's increasing international influence. Downer pointed out that while Australia is only the 50th biggest country in the world, it has the 14th largest GDP—bigger than any country in East Asia other than Japan, China or Korea. Australia's modern industrial economy has recorded an annualized growth rate of 4 percent or more for 14 consecutive quarters. He suggested that equally important for Australia's international profile were "solid national institutions, a dynamically and ethnically diverse population, deep historic and cultural ties with the countries of Europe and North America, growing links with those of our neighbors in Asia and the Pacific and an innovative and technologically advanced society." There are three recent events that Downer sees as pivotal in defining Australia's international standing. These are firstly, the demonstrated strength of Australia's economy civil institutions during the Asian economic crisis, secondly the effectiveness of Australian aid, peacekeeping forces and diplomatic efforts in Timor and finally, the success of "the best Olympics ever" in Sydney 2000. *Australian Embassy*

Ukraine protest turns violent

KIEV—The campaign to oust Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma turned violent Friday as thousands of protesters attacked his offices in the worst rioting to rock Kiev in years. The rioting sparked a crackdown by police who later rounded up around 100 members of an extreme rightwing party they accused of formenting the violence. The head of the Socialist Party, Olexander Moroz, asserted that Kuchma's days as president were numbered. "We are witnessing the death throes of a regime," he said. Riot police earlier fired tear gas and beat protesters with rubber batons to disperse a crowd of some 10,000 people who hurled rocks at the presidential offices and clashed with police. *AFP*

US stays out of Kosovo fight

WASHINGTON—The United States signaled its determination Friday to stay out of fighting along the border between Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia, saying Nato was "not looking to expand its role" in the region. "Nato is not looking to occupy new territory or to conduct new patrols in part of Serbia," said State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher. He added that the Western alliance was not "taking over the zone in any way or going over there to patrol or take on the burden of security in that area." In recent weeks, fighting has escalated between Albanian separatist rebels seeking to take control over areas in Serbia and Macedonia adjacent to Kosovo, a Yugoslav province administered by the United Nations since Nato's 1999 bombing campaign against Yugoslavia. *AFP*

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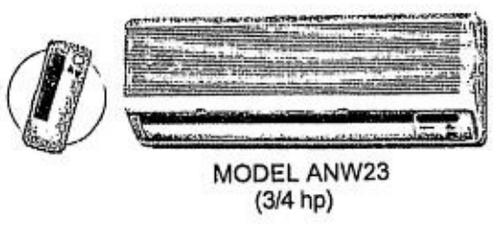

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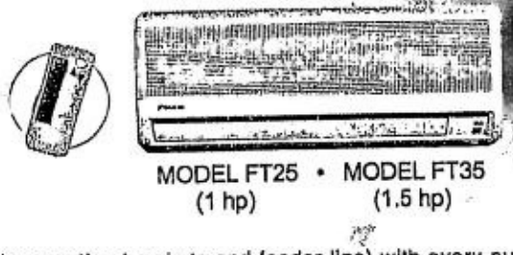

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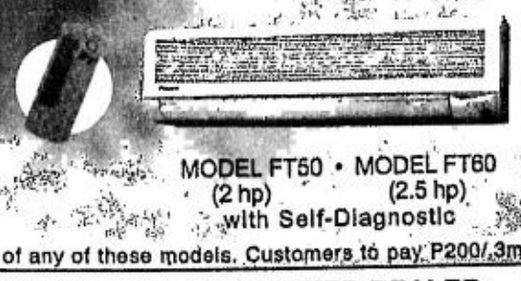

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0586, Series of 2001

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Subic freeport protest over

Clark officials deny issuing dispersal order

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Officials of Clark Development Corp. said they did not order the dispersal of some 120 striking workers of Yokohama Tire Philippines Inc. (YTPI) on Thursday.

Millet Caparas, CDC labor services manager, said only the Department of Labor and Employment can order the dispersal of the picket mounted by the Yokohama Employees Union (YEU).

The CDC management is still investigating the incident, Caparas said, adding that the dispersal should be done only if the DOLE declared the six-week-long strike illegal.

Caparas said YTPI and the YEU had three labor cases pending with the National Labor Relations Commission offices in Manila and the City of San Fernando in Pampanga and at the National Conciliation and Mediation Board.

The cases include a motion filed by YTPI to declare the strike illegal. The NLRC and the NCMB are both under the DOLE.

"We are hoping for the DOLE to resolve as soon as possible. If it is illegal, the management can terminate the workers, but if it is legal, it has to accept that," Caparas said.

She said the YTPI officials were firm in their position to terminate the 59 leaders and 69 other strikers. "But the Yokohama management should first wait for the decision of DOLE before it could legally terminate or suspend its striking workers," she said.

Some 30 strikers were reportedly hurt when about 100 policemen, CDC guards and YTPI guards dispersed their picket with nightsticks and water cannons in front of the tire firm's factory here on Thursday.

The workers fought back by throwing stones.

CDC sources said the dispersal happened after the workers prevented management personnel and non-striking workers of YTPI from entering the compound. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

BY ELIZABETH MARCELO
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The protest is over, the gates are open.

The 17-day protest staged by workers of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and its manpower subsidiary, Freeport Services Corp. (FSC), ended Friday night, with the signing of a compromise agreement described by government conciliators as a "victory for both management and workers."

The SBMA and FSC agreed to take back the protesting workers without sanctions.

The agreement also said the workers, "while having legitimate grievances against (the SBMA and FSC), admit and acknowledge that the manner by which we staged our protest action . . . was contrary to law."

The workers promised not to "engage in any similar wrongful activity and shall observe the rule of law and abide by the proper legal procedures for the expression of our legitimate grievances."

The management of both the SBMA and FSC, on the other hand, promised to "immediately address legitimate grievances and issues raised during the protest" and "ensure the implementation of a working grievance machinery."

"All's well that ends well," SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo said, before announcing the six-point compromise agreement that took two days to finalize.

Two sets of documents bearing the six-point compromise agreement were signed, one between Payumo and Fidel de la Cruz of the seaport department, who represented the protesting SBMA workers; the other between lawyer Sergio de la Cruz and representatives of the protesting FSC workers.

Speaking on behalf of the workers, De la Cruz thanked President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Civil Service Commission and National Conciliation and Mediation Board representatives, Payumo for helping facilitate the settlement of the dispute, and Olongapo Mayor Katherine Gordon for supporting their cause.

Cheers and tears of joy greeted the protest leaders' announcement of the settlement shortly before 10 p.m. Friday.

In compliance with the agreement, the workers immediately lifted the barricades in five of six Subic gates that, for the past two days, had remained closed.

More than 400 workers who defied a return-to-work order issued by the SBMA and FSC are expected to be back on their jobs on March 12, and meet with Payumo to go through their list of grievances.

At the height of the mass action, the number of protesting workers reached 832, according to NCMB conciliator Rodolfo Guevarra.

Observers said the intercession of the Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce was crucial in the settlement of the dispute.

A delegation headed by SBFCC president Jose Saddul expressed the sentiments of the investors to Mayor Gordon before Friday noon.

They presented to her a letter protesting the barricades, which the latter refused to accept, saying it should be addressed to the workers.

While the investors said the blockades outside the freeport gates were under her jurisdiction as Olongapo mayor, they offered nonetheless their assistance in helping "find a solution" to the dispute.

They said the dispute has resulted in millions of dollars in financial losses to the business community.

The delegation included representatives of major freeport investors Federal Express, BICC Brand Rex and RCM Mfg. Inc. and the manager-developer of the Japanese industrial park, Subic Techno Park.

Gordon accompanied the delegation to Magsaysay Avenue and arranged for a dialogue with the protest leaders.

Subsequently, the SBFCC delegation presented the workers' grievances and concerns to Payumo and stayed on for the final stages of negotiations until the compromise agreement was signed in the evening.

What government conciliators failed to achieve in six days, the SBFCC delegation succeeded in working out—the first dialogue between Payumo and the protest leaders.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol Region, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 32° Lo 23°	Baguio Hi 25° Lo 15°	Tuguegarao Hi 32° Lo 22°	Laoag Hi 33° Lo 22°
Clark Zone Hi 31° Lo 22°	Tagaytay Hi 30° Lo 21°	Legazpi Hi 30° Lo 24°	Calapan Hi 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod Hi 32° Lo 24°	Roxas Hi 31° Lo 25°	Cebu Hi 31° Lo 24°	Tacloban Lo 25°
Gen. Santos Hi 33° Lo 23°	Zamboanga Hi 32° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 31° Lo 22°	Davao Hi 30° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

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Another detainee freed in Negros

DUMAGUETE CITY—Political detainee Irene Valencia burst into tears Friday after the regional trial court ordered her temporary release from the Negros Oriental Detention and Rehabilitation Center (NDRC).

Valencia, a self-confessed member of the communist New People's Army, was among 49 political detainees recommended for release as part of confidence-building measures of the government in its proposed peace talks with the communist rebels.

Judge Ramon Bato Jr. of RTC Branch 30 turned over Valencia to her custodians, Bishops David Ga of the Philippine Independent Church (PIC) and Erme Camba of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP).

Valencia hugged her friends and supporters after her release and assured her custodians that she would attend court hearings on her cases.

Ga said accepting the role of Irene's custodian was a risk he took. "This is really based on faith because I have no control over Irene, but I hope she will also honor our agreement."

Earlier efforts by the PIC, UCCP and the Catholic Church to have Valencia released or placed under their custody were denied by authorities.

Judge Bato said the temporary release of Valencia was without prejudice to the outcome of two cases of illegal possession of firearms filed against her.

Valencia, a former social work student of Silliman University, was arrested by members of the Regional Mobile Group of the Philippine National Police during a clash between government and rebel forces in Barangay Amdos, Ayungon, Negros Oriental, on Nov. 18,1999.

Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

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ROUNDUP

Samar House bet

FERNANDO P. Perito is the official candidate of the Nationalista Party in the congressional race in the first district of Samar. A member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and other groups, Perito vowed to fight graft and corruption and to help the poor. His name was inadvertently omitted in the list of candidates that appeared in the INQUIRER (3/10/01, A14) yesterday.

MILF leader yields

ZAMBOANGA CITY—An alleged leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and two of his followers surrendered to the military in Maluso, Basilan, on Friday. The surrenderers were identified as Commander Kintong Jannatul Quezon, Hakim Mingkong and Normi Balbino, according to Maj. Reynaldo Ordonez of the Army's 10th Infantry Battalion based in Basilan. The rebels turned over two Garand rifles. ***Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Misamis hot spots

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The Commission on Elections and the provincial police have declared eight towns of Misamis Oriental hot spots. Claveria, Opol, Salay, Balingasag, Lagonglng, Tagoloan, Sugbongcogon and Initao were declared hot spots because of election-related violent incidents during the 1998 polls, said provincial election supervisor Carlito Ravelo. He said members of the New People's Army and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front were also sighted in these towns. Misamis Oriental has 24 municipalities with 588,822 registered voters.

Ellen Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Tourism dev't

NAGA CITY—Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. said the national government would develop tourism in Bicol to improve its economy. With the region facing major economic problems, including high rates of electricity and inadequate transport facilities, the national government will embark on activities to improve its tourism industry, Guingona said. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Boat sinks

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Eight persons remain missing after the MV El Palanios sank off the coast of Casapsapan and Diniog in Dilasag, Aurora, on March 2, a belated report reaching the Central Luzon police headquarters here said. The Philippine Coast Guard reported rescuing seven of the 15 crewmen and passengers. Rescued were Ruben Donato, the boat captain, Luis Palason, Demetrio Molina, Ulysis Conde, Antonio Mago, Ronald Bernardo and Rodolfo Orgato, all of Palanan, Isabela. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Bancas collide

BULACAN, Bulacan—A pregnant woman was killed while five others were hurt after their motorized banca collided with another banca in a river in Barangay Taliptip here on Tuesday. Police identified the fatality as Beth Mercado, 22, who was eight months pregnant. Her body was recovered Wednesday afternoon. Reports said the victims' boat was bound for Bocaue River when it was hit by the other banca at a sharp bend of the Taliptip River. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Man kills neighbors

TUMAUINI, Isabela—A man stabbed and killed his two neighbors during a dance party in Barangay San Mateo here on Tuesday. Police arrested Nick Caronan, who allegedly stabbed and killed Daniel Rico, 18, and Reynaldo Allam, 23, both of Barangay Ugad here. Caronan told the police that he stabbed the victims after they beat him up. Police said Caronan, who was drunk at the time of the incident, was earlier forced out of the dancing hall for unruly behavior. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Private armies

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Police officials in Central Luzon vowed to disband all private armies in the region that could be used by politicians to harass their opponents during the election campaign. Chief Supt. Enrique Galang, regional police director, cited reports from the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force showing that some politicians have started to regroup their private armed groups to ensure their victory.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Valencia withdraws

CALAPAN CITY—Saying he wanted to avoid being charged with building a political dynasty, Gov. Rodolfo G. Valencia announced on Tuesday he was withdrawing from the race in Oriental Mindoro's first congressional district. Valencia, who is on his last term as governor, told a press conference that he wanted to set an example in upholding the constitutional ban on political dynasties. The Liberal Party head and provincial chair of the People Power Coalition said he would help campaign for his wife Chalie, who is running for governor. ***Joel J. Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Mad cow scare spreads in Mindanao

BY FROILAN GALLARDO
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Between sips of cold beer, local restaurateur Roberto Soriano carefully monitored the flow of customers entering his small restaurant that specializes in hot, grilled steaks.

The past few days were bad and today was no better. Many of his clients have stopped going to his restaurant after the mad cow scare hit the national headlines.

"My customers are scared. They have stopped eating steak and if they do, they often ask where we get our meat," Soriano said.

The scare of mad cow disease had spread like wildfire throughout Northern Mindanao, a major producer of cattle for the Manila markets.

Stalls selling beef in the malls and local markets in this city have reported sl[illegible]ales in the past few days as sca[illegible] consumers opted to buy pork an[illegible] other livestock.

Agricultu[illegible]e officials said they feared a backlash on the local cattle industry similar to what happened in the early '90s when a formalin scare in vegetables forced thousands of farmers to burn their produce.

"We are bracing for the possible effects (because) this could ruin the local industry," said Rufino Chan, director of the Department of Agriculture in Northern Mindanao.

Northern Mindanao farmers regularly ship 100,000 head of cattle a year to Manila or 10 percent of the country's cattle production.

While three of the region's major cattle producers—Del Monte Philippines, businessmen Ramon Aberrasturi and Pepe Bernales—reported no drop in sales, agriculture officials are still wary.

"The scare is spread by word of mouth by people who don't understand what is mad cow disease," Chan told the Inquirer.

Already, erroneous text messages have spread, telling everyone that a top executive of a popular fast-food chain resigned over the mad cow disease.

"This is precisely what we fear. A baseless scare that spreads like wildfire," Chan said.

Chan said they are assuring the public that cattle shipped from Northern Mindanao is not stricken with mad cow disease.

He said most of the cattle here that are eventually slaughtered for Manila markets come from United States and Australia, countries that are relatively free of the disease.

"So long as the cattle is butchered here, the possibility that the meat is contaminated is very remote," Chan said.

Dr. Elvito Tac-an, chief of the DA livestock division in Region 10, said department employees strictly inspect the cattle shipment that arrives at the city port from Australia every month.

He said the newly arrived cattle is usually placed under quarantine at the stockyards of Del Monte Philippines in Bukidnon, where agriculture employees monitor them for 40 days.

"We look carefully if the cattle is sick or have any signs of ailment," Tac-an said.

Over the last decade, he said, the department's regional office holds the distinction of making Northern Mindanao, especially Bukidnon, free from foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), another deadly disease.

Tac-an urged government agencies to conduct a massive information campaign on mad cow disease.

The United Nations, in its website, feared that the disease had already spread to 13 countries in Europe and was continually spreading throughout the world through meat and bone meal exports.

Even the United States is not relatively free of the disease as previously thought. On Jan. 27, authorities quarantined 1,221 head of cattle for fear that they were exposed to contaminated feed mill.

Mad cow disease or bovine spongiform encephalopathy can be transmitted from cattle to humans through contaminated meat.

There is no known cure for the disease that attacks the nervous system.

RESIDENTS of Victoria and neighboring towns in Mindoro Oriental rally against a proposed mining project by a Canadian firm. EFREN GARCELLANO

Mindoro townsfolk oppose mining project

BY JOEL J. JABAL
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

VICTORIA, Oriental Mindoro—Residents have vowed to put up barricades similar to those in Antipolo City and Semirara Island if a Canadian mining firm pushes through with its plan to extract nickel and cobalt in the mountains of this fruit-producing town.

"If they could do it in Antipolo City and Semirara, we can also do it here. We will put up barricades, if necessary, to prevent the entry of machinery to the mining site," said Leopoldo Luci, president of the Samahang Lakas Magsasaka, Mangingisda at Mangyan (Salakma), a Catholic Church-backed coalition of farmers, fisherfolk and indigenous people's organizations.

Luci was referring to the barricades set up by residents of Antipolo and Semirara in Antique to block the planned dumping of Metro Manila's garbage in their places.

The barricades forced the government to find other options to dispose of the garbage.

During a protest rally here last week, Luci blamed the exploration activities of the Canadian firm Crew Minerals Philippines (CMP) for the floods that hit this town and neighboring municipalities.

He lambasted the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for hastily issuing a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) to Aglubang Mining Corp. (AMC), which is closely associated with CMP.

Luci showed a letter from Salvador Martin, regional director of the Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau, confirming that then DENR Secretary Antonio Cerilles issued the MPSA on Dec. 7. The agreement will expire on Dec. 6, 2025.

Bishop Warlito I. Cajandig also spoke briefly during the rally and called on the residents to unite against mining.

He recently issued a pastoral letter expressing the Church's misgivings about mining.

Students, Mangyans, teachers, senior citizens and members of religious, militant, environmental and non-government organizations joined the rally which, organizers said, drew more than 5,000 from Naujan, Socorro and Pinamalayan towns.

Speakers took turns in assailing CMP, Mindex and AMC for pushing through with the mining project.

The protesters later burned an effigy, a crocodile with two people riding on its back, representing the mining firm and its officials.

Mining firm

Arne Isberg, CMP country manager, disputed the issues raised by the protesters.

In an e-mail message, Isberg contended that the rally drew only 1,600, based on their headcount.

"Most of them were students trucked in by headmasters that are members of Alamin (Alyansa ng Mindoreño Laban sa Mina)," said Isberg.

Alamin, formed in 1998, has been lobbying for the cancellation of the exploration permits.

Isberg also explained that the MPSA was "only a conversion of the old EP (exploration permit) issued by former DENR Secretary Victor Ramos in 1997."

This, according to him, is based on the provisions of the Mining Act of 1995 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) issued in 1996.

"It does not give any mining rights, only exploration as mining will require an ECC," he explained.

Isberg stressed that the mining company has followed the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra) when it entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with "Kabilogan, a Mangyan group composed of Alangan Mangyans living within CMP's exploration area.

He explained that the MOA constituted "consent" as embodied in the Ipra.

"Sanama and KPLN are umbrella organizations that represent a number of communities not in any way affected by the proposed project and, therefore, not the one qualified to give the prior consent or enter into a MOA with the company," he said.

'Consent'

He was referring to the Samahan ng mga Alangan Mangyan (Sanama) and the Kalipunan Para sa Lupang Ninuno (KPLN), a Catholic Church-backed federation of Mangyan groups and associations.

The groups maintained that they should be the ones to give "consent" because they have long been in existence, unlike Kabilogan which came into being only after the mining firm started exploration in the area.

Aside from the NGOs, church and other groups, the provincial government is opposing the mining project.

The provincial board has already issued two resolutions rejecting the project, saying it was in conflict with the province's "agricultural and eco-tourism" thrusts.

Isberg maintained that the company would adopt "environment-friendly practices" and would contribute "billions of pesos" in taxes during its proposed 50-year operations.

CMP expects to extract nickel and cobalt with ammonium sulfate as byproducts.

Ombudsman clears Pampanga governor

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Ombudsman Aniano Desierto cleared Gov. Manuel Lapid and five other provincial officials of administrative charges in connection with the purchase of a P104-million land in 1997 for the provincial government's low-cost housing program.

However, Desierto suspended provincial treasurer Jovito Sabado for 90 days for allowing "glaring deficiencies" in the payment of 40 hectares of land.

Desierto, in a decision he signed on Feb. 23, reiterated the dismissal of charges of dishonesty, conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service, incompetence and gross negligence in the performance of duties against Lapid.

His reelection in 1998 exonerated him of the administrative charges.

Provincial accountant Benjamin Yuzon, budget officer Nida Manalad, assessment division chief Luzviminda Soriano, revenue officer Luisa San Antonio and former register of deeds director Bienvenido Ocampo were also acquitted of the same charges for lack of sufficient evidence.

The charges stemmed from a complaint of the fact-finding and intelligence bureau (FFIB) of the Office of the Ombudsman in July 1998.

The FFIB accused provincial government officials of buying the land in Barangay Maimpis, north of this city, without the payment of capital gains tax by the sellers who prepared two deeds of sale—one for P104 million and another for P5 million.

The bureau also said in its complaint that the provincial government received the title 13 days after the purchase.

The Ombudsman found no irregularity in the late registration of the deed, saying it was a matter of course for Ocampo who by then had other documents in his care.

Correct taxes were paid based on the deed of sale for the P104 million. The taxes on the P5-million land were the deficiency of the seller.

Graft Investigation Officer II Joaquin Salazar, in a decision he prepared on Jan. 31, traced the "glaring deficiencies" of the purchase to Sabado.

Sabado, according to the decision, allowed the provincial accountant to sign the disbursement vouchers for the purchase.

The payment was also made without a request for obligation of allotment, explained to have occurred because of compliance with an audit report allowing complete documentation later.

The vouchers did not have adequate resolutions from the provincial board. The two resolutions from the board only gave Lapid limited authority to negotiate for the purchase and to enter into a contract of loan with the Philippine National Bank.

"Neither of the two resolutions, however, authorized the disbursement of the amount of P104 million," the decision said.

"His (Sabado) omissions to have done so is rather reflective of his incompetence or negligence in the performance of his official duties and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service," it said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Laguna farmer leader abducted

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—A farmer leader was abducted by suspected military agents on Friday in Pila, Laguna, human rights groups reported.

Karapatan-Laguna, in a statement faxed to the INQUIRER, identified the victim as Christopher Chielo Suelo, leader of the militant Pagkakaisa't Ugnayan ng Magbubukid sa Laguna (Pumalag).

Leaders of Pumalag and other human rights groups in Laguna had earlier told journalists that they noticed several unknown persons doing surveillance work near their offices.

An unidentified military official, who attended the launching of the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino late last year, had reminded Kompil delegates that Pumalag and other militant groups were among those in their watch list as suspected fronts of the New People's Army.

The abduction, according to Doris Cuario of Karapatan, occurred at 12:30 p.m. in the vicinity of the National Irrigation Administration regional office at Barangay Sta. Clara Sur, Pila town.

It was about a kilometer from a resort in Victoria town, where a press conference of the People Power Coalition senatorial candidates was held.

Cuario said Suelo's spouse reported the incident to the barangay hall and the police station in Pila, but none of them could give information about the abduction.

Pumalag members recount that their missing leader, a tricycle driver, had stopped over at a waiting shed near the NIA building when a black L-300 van and two m[illegible]orcycles without license plate [illegible]abers arrive

Four armed men from the van forced Suelo to get inside the van, witnesses said. The van sped toward Sta. Cruz town, they said.

Suelo is also a leader of the Samahan ng mga Tricycle Operators at Drivers of Pila and the Samahan ng mga Maralitang Mamamayan ng Pila.

Pastor Mel Abesamis, Karapatan-Southern Tagalog secretary general, said the victim had also been actively involved in anti-Estrada protest actions. ***Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Snatcher stabs Inquirer correspondent

CEBU CITY—An INQUIRER correspondent was stabbed on the chest when he fought a cellular phone snatcher Friday night in an unlighted alley near M.J. Cuenco Avenue here.

Jhunnex Napallacan, 28, was brought to a hospital here with a deep wound in the chest and a broken rib. He was pronounced out of danger by doctors.

Police tagged a certain Lito Ramirez as suspect. Ramirez was recently jailed for a robbery case.

Napallacan, who is also the news director of radio station dyLA, was on his way home and was waiting for a jeepney ride when the holdup man suddenly put an arm over his shoulder, poked a bladed weapon and asked for his Nokia 3210 cellular phone and wallet.

Napallacan refused to hand over his unit and resisted, prompting the suspect to stab him.

A student, Mamerto Murillo, 19, who saw the incident, alighted from a jeepney to help Napallacan. The attacker swiftly fled without getting the victim's cellular phone.

Murillo brought Napallacan to the Visayas Community Medical Center.

Supt. Ronald Roderos, city police director, immediately relieved Chief Insp. Manuel Gurtiza, head of the Waterfront precinct, where Napallacan was stabbed, for his failure to stop the rising number of snatching and robbery cases in the area.

Roderos named Supt. Eduardo Catabas as new precinct commander.

Chief Insp. Pablo Labra II, head of Criminal Inyestigation and Intelligence Division, said Ramirez was identified based on the description given by Napallacan.

Labra said a police informant had also revealed that Ramirez was seen in the area at about the same time of the attack. ***Nagiel Bañacia, PDI Visayas Bureau***

INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ CAROLYN O. ARGUILLAS, Bureau Chief

'To the military, we are all Abu Sayyaf'

MARINES on a mission against Abu Sayyaf bandits meet villagers in B'laan, Talipao, Sulu. DENNIS SABANGAN

BY NORALYN MUSTAFA
Jolo, Sulu

ON the island of Jolo, the killings continue. So do the abuses allegedly committed by men in uniform. Reports of random killings, looting, destruction of property and disappearances due to arbitrary arrests had been received by local leaders, medical and social workers, teachers and journalists since Day One of the military offensive in Jolo against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in mid-September last year.

But almost all of those who reported the incidents, although witnesses, pleaded anonymity. Those receiving the reports could not make body counts and nothing was documented. No photos could be taken.

At the height of the operations, the countryside, from Indanan on the southwest to Patikul on the east, was a "no man's land." The few bodies that could be retrieved by kin were buried immediately. Those that could not be picked up due to heavy firing or could not be found in the thick jungles, were left either to rot or be devoured by animals.

Because of the news blackout imposed by the government then, journalists receiving such reports had to resort to using fictitious names for both informants and victims and to write the stories as features—if at all they could get the stories out.

In most cases the stories, without reasonable proof and counterchecking as standard requirements for valid news stories, inevitably cast doubts on the truth and accuracy of the reports. And of course, on the integrity of the journalists filing the stories.

Virtually suspended

Although the military stayed on alert, operations were virtually suspended due to the fasting month of Ramadhan and the Christmas holidays.

Hostilities resumed in February when a faction of the bandit group mistook the silence of the guns for a dropping of the guard and picked up from where they had left off when the military operations had sent them running and surrendering.

And as in September, most of the casualties were non-combatants.

Iman Sarail Indah of Ti-is in Talipao said that as soon as soldiers were deployed in their barangay, destruction began.

"There is no Abu Sayyaf in our place, although we are part of Talipao," the 75-year old Indah, a district commander of the Moro National Liberation Front, said.

Talipao is the erstwhile stronghold of Abu Sayyaf leaders Galib Andang, alias Commander Robot, and Mujib Susukan.

"They burned the houses, all 15 houses in our neighborhood. Those that they did not burn, they destroyed and took household and personal effects. Those they needed, they took; those things they did not need, they just destroyed and scattered all over the place," he said.

"After that, they stayed there, but they destroyed the trees, especially coconut trees. Whenever they wanted to eat coconuts, they cut down the whole tree."

For a number of residents, the coconut trees are their source of livelihood.

Indah said fruit-bearing trees and crop plants were also destroyed, and money and jewelry were taken.

"They would enter a house and search for firearms, but whatever they found they took, including jewelry and money," Indah said, estimating the combined cost of the lost jewelry at P100,000.

Survival or starvation

Although there were no cases of arbitrary arrests in their barangay, Indah said those in their neighborhood who had evacuated to nearby Tuyang were not as fortunate.

He claimed that one of his grandsons, Samman Lutian, 30, was "picked up" there "about two months ago (January)" and has not been seen since.

"They asked him to go with them and act as a guide, to identify Abu Sayyaf. But to this day he has not returned. They say he has been killed," he said.

In another barangay in Talipao, Marsada farmer Ahmad Sahid who, together with his neighbors, evacuated on the very first day of military operations, reported that all their houses and personal properties were either burned, destroyed or looted, allegedly by soldiers.

It was only on Feb. 12 when Sahid mustered enough courage to document his misfortune in an affidavit.

In the inventory accompanying his sworn statement, Sahid listed 274 coconut trees, 56 gmelina trees, 51 fruit-bearing trees, 30 coffee shrubs and 50 banana hills as among those felled or destroyed in their neighborhood of about six families, while all his cows were taken.

While the list may not appear impressive, to farmers in the third poorest province in the country, the inventory is a matter of survival or starvation.

Roused by gunfire

It was in Patikul when the guns were fired again on Feb. 23, against Mujib Susukan, who had joined forces with Raddulan Sahiron of the ASG's Patikul faction.

According to reports from witnesses, "more than 20" of Susukan's followers were killed, "more than 60 civilians (non-combatants)" were killed or wounded, and "more than 80" soldiers killed or wounded.

The Tausugs usually reckon quantities in rounded-off figures.

But even after Susukan had fled the area, the soldiers allegedly turned on the residents.

Sarip Omar Habibulla, MNLF Patikul district commander, related that about 8 p.m. of Feb. 24, eight military trucks stopped in the vicinity of their neighborhood "between Kilometers 5 and 6."

The soldiers aboard two vehicles, comprising about two platoons, got down and spread out through the neighborhood, while six other trucks proceeded to the school in Latih.

"After the commotion, we went to sleep," Habibulla recounted. "Then suddenly at about 3 o'clock, we were roused by the sound of heavy gunfire. Our houses were being strafed."

There were 10 houses in the neighborhood.

"I shouted and called to my neighbors, asking if anybody got hit. Nobody answered. Everybody was too scared to answer, but even when nobody answered, I did not go down from our house because soldiers were deployed near my own house and I was afraid I would be shot if I went down, so I decided to wait until daylight," Habibulla said.

"The strafing lasted half an hour. None of us slept again that night."

Vegetable growers

When daylight came, they found that three persons aboard a Tamaraw jeepney had been wounded, and the vehicle stalled by the roadside, with the bleeding victims still in it. They had not been allowed to leave.

According to Habibulla, all four passengers were vegetable growers bound for the Jolo market. They had stopped at one of the houses to pick up vegetables when the strafing occurred.

At about 6 o'clock, he said, the soldiers "assaulted" the houses. They found two guns in one house owned by an MNLF. The guns were licensed and covered with memorandum receipts signed by MNLF chair Nur Misuari, according to Habibulla.

"They got the guns and brought the two MNLF members to the "killing zone" (this term, in its English form, is used among the Tausug to mean an area where fighting or heavy shooting takes place)," he said.

"So the brother of one of them, Abdussakur Muin, went to me asking for help, fearing that his brother would be killed."

Habibulla went to talk to the "captain" who was apparently in command but whose name he did not know because the officer and his men did not have any namecloth on their uniforms.

He said the officer asked him "*ikaw ba ang MNLF commander dito?*" (Are you the MNLF commander here?), and when he replied in the affirmative, the officer told him, "*Traydor ka, marami kang tauhan na Abu Sayyaf*" (You're a traitor, Many of your men are Abu Sayyaf members).

Habibulla denied the accusation, referring to the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the MNLF, which, he said, they were committed to comply with, telling the officer that while they, the MNLF, were abiding by the terms, the soldiers were violating it, and that they should talk it over.

"This angered the officer. He told me, '*Doon natin pag-usapan kay* General Galvez (Let's talk this over with General Galvez).' His men pointed their guns at me and I was ordered to ride in their jeep. I thought I would be brought to the brigade (Army headquarters) to talk with the general, so I did not object. We were under the peace agreement, so I just trusted Allah because I had not done anything wrong."

Interrogated

He was brought instead to the school that the soldiers used as a detachment. There, he said he was "interrogated" by a Major Ronnie, who also did not have a namecloth but whose uniform and those of his men indicated that they were Scout Rangers.

"If there was a namecloth, I would know his name because I can read," Habibulla said.

"The officer told me that I should admit that the victims who were wounded in the strafing were casualties in the fighting on Friday in Kanimlan, that they were ASG members bringing the wounded to town for treatment. I said they were just vegetable farmers who go to the market everyday at dawn to sell vegetables. They were mere civilians; they were not even MNLF. But they tried to force me to give their version of the incident. To the military, we are all Abu Sayyaf," he said.

On March 1, ABS-CBN Zamboanga, in its afternoon news program, said the Southern Command announced the apprehension of eight Abu Sayyaf members at a checkpoint in Patikul while on their way to the town of Jolo to seek treatment at the hospital after being wounded in the Friday encounter.

The town of Parang, some 20 kilometers southwest of Jolo, has never been Abu Sayyaf territory. But for this very reason, the bandit group found it a "safe" escape route through which they could travel from east to west, and vice-versa. But the military soon found this out.

And on Jan. 23, soldiers of the 77th Infantry Battalion, 5th Infantry Division conducted "commando" patrols in Barangay Paugan, where most of the residents are close relatives of MNLF Army integrees and is supposed to be a "cleared" area.

It is also the homeplace of Dr. Hamsali Jawali, president of the Sulu State College.

'Accident'

About 2 p.m. of that day, Bagumbayan Tagayan, Jawali's first cousin and caretaker of his property, lay dead, his body riddled with bullets from the soldiers' guns.

His cousin, Kumalah Jawali, witnessed the whole incident and related how, "without warning," they were peppered with bullets by the soldiers.

"When we saw many soldiers around the house, we went down to talk to them and tell them this was the house of the president of the Sulu State College. But we had not yet reached them when they shot at us, and we ran separate ways while they were shooting at us."

She said there were four of them, three women and Umbay, the one who was killed.

Their niece, dumb since birth, was seriously wounded, hit by Armalite bullets in the neck, the side of the torso and in the arm. Fortunately for them, they were close kin of a government official, and military authorities at once called on Dr. Jawali to offer assistance, saying the incident was an "accident."

A Tausug military officer told the surviving victims that the report that was going to be submitted to headquarters stated that they had simply been caught in the crossfire, but another Tausug officer "blocked" the report because it was not true.

"But if we can agree," he said, "they will no longer submit that report; on the other hand, we will no longer report this incident, we will not make it (a) big (thing)," adding that the military authorities were very concerned and worried about having killed an innocent civilian.

Although his sympathy with the victims was very apparent, he had to tell them the facts of life for people in areas of conflict.

'Case closed'

"It is seldom that complaints against the military will prosper, especially here in the countryside," he said. "They may not report that you are Abu Sayyaf, but they will just say that they were running after the Abu Sayyaf behind you, case closed."

Painful though it was for Dr. Jawali, he had to agree, he himself having been a "victim" not of the military, but of military-backed power.

At the conference held on the visit of then Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado at the office of Sulu Gov. Abdussakur Tan in October last year, Dr. Jawali called for a halt in military operations in the war-torn province.

As newspaper accounts told it, "a red-faced Mercado" accused Dr. Jawali of being an "Abu Sayyaf coddler" after the school official criticized the then ongoing military operations which, according to him, disturbed the peace in the province.

"That's all bulls—," Mercado was quoted as saying. "If you don't support the operation, you should resign. We have been looking for people like you in the government who support the Abu Sayyaf. You should be investigated."

Ironically, while incidents of alleged military abuses are strongly condemned, many of those interviewed by this writer still favor the operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

They believe these are necessary to restore the elusive peace and order in a province torn by conflict for so long that even the relative peace that now prevails is looked upon as something quite unusual, like a dream from which they are afraid they may have to wake up any day, but pray they will never will.

Eid'l Adha: Muslim tribute to women, motherhood

BY NASH B. MAULANA
Cotabato City

CULTURAL festivities in major airports and seaports await Filipino Muslim pilgrims this month from Mecca, courtesy of the Department of Tourism.

Sohura Dimaampao, tourism director for Central Mindanao, said the department's "Pilgrims as Tourists" program would provide a grand reception for Muslim *hajj* pilgrims this year, "in line with (the DOT's) Rediscovery Program to increase tourism awareness among Muslims, help (put in place) the healing process, and foster relationship among peoples of different cultures and religious creeds."

Muslims on Monday celebrated the culmination of Abrahamic rituals reenacted by millions of peoples of all races, colors and tribes who participate in the Islamic *hajj* pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina.

The Eid'l Adha or the Feast of Sacrifice, which officially ends the yearly *hajj* season, is celebrated worldwide with massive ceremonial offerings of lamb, and the reenactment of rituals performed in desert shrines by Abraham and his older son Ishmael.

Muslim Affairs Executive Director Zamzamin Ampatuan said the first batch of Filipino Muslim pilgrims was due to return last week of March.

Ampatuan said the Eid'l Adha, which falls on Monday, is a recognized Muslim holiday in Central and Western Mindanao under Presidential Decree No. 1083, the Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines.

Dimaampao, a feminist, said the final ritual called *sae* was an emotional Muslim tribute to women as mothers, by reenacting Hagar's ancient jog run to and from the Hills of Safa and Marwa when she was in frantic search of water.

As told in the Old Testament and the Koran, she ran away after being driven out by Sara upon knowing that Abraham had fathered her a son ahead of Sara.

The pilgrims' gathering in tents on Mt. Arafa also expose tourists to the hallowed ground where Adam and Eve reunited on earth when God sent them down from the Garden of Eden as a form of punishment after they ate the forbidden fruit.

The first main ritual in which Muslims wear a two-piece unsewn white cloth is the *tawaf* (walking around the Holy Kaaba, House of the Hajaral Aswad or Black Stone) seven times counter-clockwise, which was originally performed by the Prophets Abraham and Ishmael.

About 2 million people gather at the Mecca Mosque on the *hajj* pilgrimage, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has invited Muslim journalists to cover the event. It provides a yearly opportunity for Muslims to gather not only for the religious affair but also to touch on the socioeconomic and sociopolitical aspects of their secular lives.

Except for women who are allowed with underwear and jewelry behind the *iqram* (two-piece white cloth), kings, princes and the ordinary men wear the same modest attire from Mecca and Medina to Arafa, and back to the Hills of Safa al Marwa.

Among many things, the pilgrimage reminds Muslims of the big role of women in their faith and in both their secular and eternal lives; death in which one is merely wrapped in plain white cloth, and that no man is superior over another before the Almighty Allah.

₱100M pledged for special voters registration

(From page A1)

Boncodin said the government could get the funds from the "continuing appropriation" of the Commission on Elections.

"So far, we do not know how much the Comelec needs for (the special registration). But from what I heard, it would not be more than P100 million," she said in Filipino.

"That should not be a problem," she added. "The last thing that we are to worry about regarding the special registration is the funding."

Boncodin also said that if the Supreme Court or the Comelec gave the green light for the special registration this month, there was still enough time to look for funds.

She said that revenue projections for this year were lower, and that the government might have to undertake more belt-tightening measures.

But this will not change the government's determination to find the funds for the special registration, she said.

The Comelec had earlier said it could not hold a special registration anymore because the law prohibits the listing of voters within 120 days before an election.

Youth and student groups, even individual students, have lodged various petitions before the Supreme Court seeking the holding of a special registration for first-time voters.

Earlier, President Macapagal-Arroyo called for a special session to pass the enabling law.

She said the idea of delaying the May 14 elections just to accommodate a special registration for first-time voters was "not acceptable."

Renato Corona, her spokesperson and chief of staff, said she was still prepared to call a special session to find a "legal remedy to the disenfranchisement of the first-time voters."

"But her position is clear. She is against the postponement of the elections," he said.

Amendment

Cayetano's bill seeks to amend Section 8 of Republic Act 8189, or the Voter's Registration Act of 1996, to specifically provide for the holding of a special registration for new voters for the May 14 elections.

Cayetano said the registration was necessary because 4.5 million youths of voting age were unable to register last Dec. 27 simply because they were not aware of the Comelec deadline and were not told of the implications of their non-registration.

"However, these young men and women are the same individuals who voluntarily marched to Edsa last January to call for the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada," he said.

Cayetano said the youths' collective initiative, determination and vigilance made possible the peaceful and constitutional transfer of power to then Vice President Macapagal.

"In light of these, it is only appropriate for the government to afford these youths the means by which they can exercise their constitutional right of suffrage," he said.

Cayetano urged his fellow legislators to "earnestly seek the early passage" of the measure.

Sen. Franklin Drilon, Education Secretary Raul Roco and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan also expressed support for the conduct of a special registration.

Before March 30

Arroyo said the one-day special session should take place before March 30, the start of the congressional campaign, to allow members of the House of Representatives to attend.

To expedite the passage of the law, Arroyo said, leaders of the Senate and the House should agree beforehand on the text of the proposed bill in order to do away with a bicameral conference afterwards.

"It will be a simple law that sets a day for the special registration and the special appropriation for that purpose. We can finish that in one day. This is not a controversial law," he said.

"The (second) People Power was propelled by the young, so we should give them all the opportunity to get involved in an exercise to which they contributed a lot," he added.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the chamber could muster a quorum for a special session.

But he expressed doubt that the House could do so because most of its members were busy campaigning for themselves or their candidates.

PPC senatorial candidate Solita Monsod urged the Comelec to set aside "bureaucratic procedures" for the sake of the first-time voters.

"We are talking here about four million individuals who will exercise their right to vote. Why be afraid of the law? Instead of saying we will break the law, we should amend the law," Monsod said during a visit to the picket of the Akbayan-Youth in front of the Comelec office yesterday.

The militant youth group said first-time voters missed the deadline for registration because it was not well publicized by the Comelec.

Doubt

PnM senatorial candidate Jamby Madrigal said that while she was in favor of a special registration, she seriously doubted if one could still be conducted.

She said most of the members of the Senate and the House were already on the campaign trail and might not be available for a special session.

"It would be nice, but it's too late. I don't know if the Senate can still pass the law. This is a bit abnormal. It should have been done earlier," Madrigal said in an interview.

Estrada's wife, Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, also a PnM senatorial candidate, said Congress should also pass the proposed bill on absentee voting that would allow some seven million overseas Filipino workers and expatriates to cast their votes.

"I challenge (Ms Macapagal) to certify the Absentee Voting Bill when the special session that will meet to discuss the special registration takes place," Ejercito said in a statement.

If the bill is passed, OFWs and expatriates can begin to vote in the 2004 presidential elections.

Genuine reforms

Friday in General Santos City, members of the Akbayan-Youth held a rally in front of the Comelec office to demand the holding of a special registration.

Akbayan coordinator Herbert Demos, said about 70 percent of the youth in the city failed to register because of the Comelec's failure to disseminate information.

"Our votes must be counted. We want genuine social reforms. We want to get rid of traditional politicians, but we can only achieve this if we will be given a chance to exercise our right of suffrage," Demos said.

Also on Friday in Davao City, PPC senatorial candidate Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan said the Comelec had no right to impose the election rule banning voters' registration 120 days before the scheduled polls as it could be a violation of citizens' right of suffrage.

Pangilinan said a law could not supersede the Constitution. Thus, he said, it was incumbent on the Comelec to reconsider its position.

Satur Ocampo, president of the party-list group Bayan Muna, urged the Comelec to be sensitive to the demand of the people, especially the youth, for a special registration. ***With reports from Blanche Rivera and Philip Tubeza in Manila; Aquiles Z. Zonio and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Full honors for Martin

(From page A1)

statement since Martin's death.

Still, Maj. Gen. Jose Lachica, chief of the military forces in Southern Luzon, continued to insist that it was a chance encounter that led to the firefight wherein Martin was seriously wounded.

"How could a 10-member Scout Ranger group be able to effectively launch a rescue operation, if it was indeed a mission to purposely secure (Martin's) freedom? A mere 10-member team?" Lachica said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has called for an investigation of the circumstances of Martin's death.

Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza, acting chief of the Philippine National Police, yesterday clarified that the PNP conducted a second autopsy on Martin as a standard operating procedure for all policemen who died in action.

"It is a procedural matter, which will be the basis if we conduct a formal investigation of the incident," he said.

Mendoza reported that Martin's body actually had two gunshot wounds, and not one, as earlier reported—"one in the buttocks and the other in the right chest, and several wounds in different parts of the body."

Surprise

The NPA's Alcantara said the rebels guarding Martin tried to save him but were surprised by the heavy volume of fire from the government forces.

He said the presence of members of the 4th ISU proved that the NPA unit holding Martin had already been under close surveillance.

He also pointed out that the clash occurred at around 1:30 a.m., with the Rangers using night-vision equipment.

"This is the usual technique of the Army's special troops, like the Scout Rangers, to gain absolute surprise and initiative," Alcantara said.

"The Scout Rangers had control of favorable terrain right from the start of the firefight, which proves that they had advance information on the positioning of the NPA custodial force and of Martin," he said.

Alcantara also said that if the clash occurred by chance, it would not have lasted for two hours and with the government forces maintaining the initiative.

He blamed both the Estrada and Macapagal administrations and the Armed Forces for Martin's death.

"This is the disastrous result of the hard-line stance of the Estrada government on the negotiations for the release of the prisoners of war, and the continuation of the all-out war of the Macapagal government," he said.

Alcantara said the Melito Glor Command was condoling with Martin's widow, Nenita.

He said the NPA unit that held Martin had ensured his safety for more than a year.

He added that because of what happened, the NPA unit holding another captive, Army Maj. Noel Buan, would be "more careful" to avoid a repetition of Martin's fate.

The NPA was said to have been preparing to release both Martin and Buan after Ms Macapagal ordered the release of 73 political prisoners.

Apology

The Army has apologized for Martin's death and said the incomplete information on his true condition during his recovery was a result of poor communication.

Brig. Gen. Roberto P. Santiago, outgoing commanding general of the 2nd Infantry Division based in Camp Canuto, Camarines Sur, said the apology was made by acting Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

The Army's 2ID covers the Bicol region and the provinces of Quezon, Mindoro, Marinduque and Romblon.

What made the incident doubly painful was that Nenita Martin was made to believe that her husband was returning alive, Santiago said.

He said it was the breakdown in communications between the men at the battlefront and the Army leadership in Lucena City that led to the confusion.

According to Santiago, someone phoned Nenita and a number of reporters after receiving the initial radio report that Martin had been recovered.

He said this report led everyone to believe that Martin was alive and well.

"The lesson that we learned from this incident is that our communications equipment should be upgraded now," Santiago said.

But a police officer based in Quezon complained that the military bypassed the PNP before and after the alleged encounter that resulted in Martin's death.

"We don't really know what happened to Martin. Some quarters within the PNP are insisting that the police were cast aside by the military. Who knows, if we had been allowed to participate, we could have done something to save his life," said the officer, who asked not to be named.

According to Lachica, the events of early Thursday comprised a "fast developing situation."

"We did not have the luxury of time to ask for help since we were in control of the situation. The only thing that prevented the safe extrication of Major Martin was the foul weather and the rough seas," he said.

Acting PNP chief Mendoza said Nenita Martin had received an initial P160,000 in financial assistance from the police.

Chief Supt. Domingo Reyes, head of the PNP Regional Office IV, earlier handed to the widow two checks amounting to more than P200,000 from the police benefit assistance office.

JOAN BONDOC

PRESIDENT Macapagal embraces Martin's widow who believed her husband was coming home alive.

Grief

On Friday at the Martin residence in Sariaya town, the scent of sampaguita filled the air.

The fragrant garlands shared space atop Martin's flag-draped coffin with his cap and a picture of him in uniform.

"I don't know how I will accept all these challenges given to me by the Lord," a grieving Nenita told the INQUIRER.

"I don't know whether I can outlive all these miseries. I'm fed up. How will I go on living alone?" she said.

Olylyn, wife of the Martins' only son Allan who died of leukemia in 1999, said her mother-in-law had not had any sleep.

"She just sat in front of the coffin, her tears flowing. We really pity her. She only roused herself this morning when we reminded her that the President was coming," Olylyn said.

An advance team of the Presidential Security Group had been in the area since Thursday night.

Protocol was forgotten in the cramped living room of the semi-bungalow at the Marichie Subdivision, a few corners from the town's public market, when the President arrived Friday afternoon to pay her respects to the slain police officer and condole with his family.

The sorrow of Martin's survivors—his wife, his mother Corazon, his daughter-in-law and his granddaughter Chloe—appeared to ease a little during the President's visit.

Ms Macapagal arrived at 1:50 p.m., accompanied by Quezon Representatives Marcial Punzalan Jr., a *compadre* of Martin's, and Rafael Nantes.

She stayed for about 40 minutes, 16 minutes of which were spent in conversation with Nenita inside a bedroom.

"The President just told me that she would help me," Nenita told reporters later. She refused to give details. ***With a report from Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

This rich pol really loves poor

(From page A1)

candidate Jamby Madrigal yesterday defended her social status against criticism from administration candidate Joker Arroyo, who had said that the Puwersa ng Masa slate was full of millionaires and billionaires despite its pro-poor campaign platform.

Arroyo himself had been reacting to opposition charges that the ruling People Power Coalition ticket was "elitist."

"What's wrong with being rich?" asked the scion of the old-rich Madrigal shipping and banking clan.

"The real rich love the poor," added Madrigal, former President Joseph Estrada's adviser on children's affairs.

In an interview, Madrigal said she was determined to use only one pair of shoes, six shirts, six pairs of pants, and her campaign vest during the entire campaign period to underscore her determination to live a "simple lifestyle."

She mentioned, however, that she has stopped wearing expensive clip earrings on the campaign trail since she has lost several pairs while passing through crowds.

She only wears cheap earrings now, she told the INQUIRER.

Even Puwersa ng Masa campaign handlers acknowledge that Madrigal is among the richest candidates on the ticket. Among its many businesses, the clan is also involved in high-end property development projects. The Madrigal family owned the notorious "Boracay" mansion believed to have been bought by Estrada through a network of cronies and lawyers.

But Madrigal sees no contradiction between being moneyed and running as a representative of the masses.

She said her ancestors were wealthy but their brand of politics was "socialist," citing the political careers of her great-uncles, Supreme Court Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos and Sen. Vicente Madrigal, and aunt Sen. Pacita Madrigal.

"Our fortune was not politically achieved," she added.

Joker in Ralph Lauren?

Madrigal turned the tables on the administration candidates, particularly Arroyo, saying he was fond of wearing designer clothes during the campaign.

" I'm not a slave to designer clothes. But they wear Ralph Lauren checkered shirts during their campaign," Madrigal said.

Asked whom she was referring to, Madrigal named Arroyo.

The Makati congressman had referred to former First Lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, former police chief Panfilo Lacson, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, former Press Secretary Ricardo "Dong" Puno, former ABS-CBN newscaster Noli De Castro, and of course, Madrigal, as the "millionaires and billionaires" of the Puwersa ng Masa.

Oh no, not nationalism

Yesterday, Arroyo had another beef.

After People Power II, many expected that national pride would be at an all-time high, he said. But he and other administration bets are finding that people are more interested in issues other than nationalism.

"We were even advised to slow down on nationalism if we want to be listened to. I can see it in the campaign. When you talk about nationalism, people in the audience start talking to each other," Arroyo told reporters at a forum at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City.

"I think that, unfortunately, the issue of nationalism is waning. That's the reality of it. Our idea is to get elected and espouse it again. But if you espouse it now, *patay ka* (you're dead)," he added.

Arroyo said that he found the situation especially distressing in schools, the breeding ground of nationalism in the '60s and '70s.

"Students have not been at the forefront of nationalist issues. It's (supposed to) start with them but its not happening. Nationalism has been deflected by the drive for globalization," Arroyo added.

Arroyo's fellow senatorial candidate Wigberto Tañada, son of the great late nationalist Lorenzo Tañada, agreed.

"When you talk about nationalism, you can't seem to connect with the people. So we were told that maybe we could shift a little and 'give a face' to our nationalist ideas," Tañada said.

Dancing with starlets

So now, he said, he talks about the problems of Ilocos and Nueva Ecija crop growers who face competition from foreign farmers who flood the local market with cheaper goods, to point out the effects of globalization.

"I am not convinced that (the issue of nationalization) should be abandoned. This is the real cause why I want to go back to the Senate: to strengthen the ideas of nationalism in a time of globalization," he added.

But, in the meantime, to get attention, the candidates are resorting to the traditional crowd-pleasers, like starlets who fire up administration rallies with their dance routines.

"It's a humbling experience. We don't know who is going to dance or sing. So, once, Klaudia Kardinal . . . oops, *este*, Klaudia Koronel, just bursts onto the stage and we do a dance number," Tañada said.

And how does a serious legislator like Tañada view dancing onstage?

"I guess these dance routines are our expression of solidarity to audiences who have been standing for four hours and are sometimes sleepy because of our speeches," he said.

Gov't, Reds resume talks on April 27

(From page A1)
the two other members of the government team.

Luis Jalandoni, a member of the NDF national executive committee, led the rebel panel in the meetings. He was assisted by Fidel V. Agcoili and Coni K. Ledesma.

Mutually acceptable

According to the NDF statement, the formal peace negotiations would be held in "a mutually acceptable foreign neutral venue."

Before the peace talks were called off in 1999, negotiations were held in the Netherlands.

The NDF statement said the agenda of the first day of talks would focus on exchanging credentials, approval of joint principles and formal negotiations on the social and economic reforms.

The government also committed to release more captured insurgents as a "confidence-building measure," the NDF said.

"In response to the appeals of the families, human rights organizations and religious groups, the GRP shall take steps to accelerate the release of prisoners and detainees contained in a list provided by human rights organizations," it said.

On Thursday, Ms Macapagal declared a 30-day unilateral ceasefire covering 11 provinces in Southern Tagalog to speed up the peace process.

The ceasefire came after Chief Inspector Martin, police chief of Dolores, Quezon, died from wounds he suffered in a gun battle the previous day between soldiers and rebels who had been holding him captive since November 1999.

The suspension of military operations was also aimed at giving the New People's Army, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, a chance to safely release Army Maj. Noel Buan whom the NPA also seized about a year ago.

The NDF statement, however, made no mention of the ceasefire called by Ms Macapagal or her appeal for Buan's release.

Reactions

Even so, military commanders welcomed the NDF announcement, saying they would "respond positively" on the conditions for the resumption of the talks.

Brig. Gen. Roberto P. Santiago, outgoing commander of the 2nd Infantry Division based in Southern Luzon, said the NPA's release of Buan would bolster chances of peace in the region.

Satur Ocampo, Bayan Muna president and former NDF spokesperson, said the government and the NDF should establish procedures on the release of "prisoners of war."

"This would be a step in establishing mutual confidence in the peace process," Ocampo said in Davao City.

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan also hailed the NDF announcement for the resumption of peace talks.

"The Filipino people welcome this as a positive step that veers away for the all-out war and the scuttling of the peace talks under the ousted Estrada regime," said Bayan chair Rafael Mariano.

Mariano said the resumption of peace talks would "provide an opportunity to address the havoc wrought by the Estrada and other regimes on human, social and economic rights which compelled more Filipinos to take up arms."

After assuming the presidency on Jan. 20, Ms Macapagal ordered a resumption of talks with the communists and the Muslim separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) insurgents operating in the South.

She released 15 communist and Moro rebels over the past week in a peace gesture to both groups. Two more alleged communist insurgents were released on Saturday.

Communist rebels, who have been waging a Maoist rebellion to seize power for the past 32 years, pulled out of peace talks with the Estrada administration in 1999 after the Senate approved the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement with the United States.

MILF rebels

In another front, the head of the government peace panel trying to open peace talks with the 12,500-strong MILF said that formal talks with that Muslim group had yet to take off.

Government peace negotiator Jesus Dureza said that he was still conducting "back-channeling" contacts with the rebels, adding the MILF leadership was apprehensive about coming out for talks.

"The formal talks will take some time," Dureza said, recalling that they had first approached the MILF leadership over a month ago.

Ms Macapagal also called a unilateral ceasefire with the MILF in Mindanao last month. The MILF rebels, however, continue to attack government positions. ***With reports from Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez***

Hunt . . .

(From page A1)
run after being implicated in the unsolved case of missing PR man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer.

Witnesses in NBI custody have also positively identified another PAOCTF member as one of the men who commandeered Dacer's white Toyota Revo during the abduction of the PR practitioner and driver Manuel Corbito on Nov. 24, according to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

The NBI chief said his men were after Senior Supt. Teofilo Viña, former head of the PAOCTF-Visayas and the first top aide of former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson to be linked by the NBI to the Dacer case. At the time of the crime, Lacson headed the task force.

A PAOCTF-Visayas source said Viña was "last seen" a week ago in the northern Cebu town of Daanbantayan, where he has acquaintances.

But police officials in Cebu said they had received no order to find the controversial former chief of the Visayas task force, who took a leave of absence in January following the relief of Lacson, an appointee of deposed President Joseph Estrada and now an opposition senatorial candidate.

Viña first came into the picture early in December, when the INQUIRER reported that NBI agents were zeroing in on an unidentified task force operative—a former member of the Cavite police force—who fit two witnesses' description of one of Dacer's abductors.

The day that the report came out, Viña came forward to vehemently deny that he was the unnamed operative, saying that he felt alluded to by the article.

But Wycoco believes that Viña could provide the missing pieces of the puzzle in the more than three-old-month case, and his name has cropped up in documents gathered by the NBI National Capital Region, which is spearheading the probe.

Flight manifest

"In a statement he made in Cebu, Viña said he was in Cebu all throughout November. He said he was not in Manila when Dacer was abducted," Wycoco said in an interview yesterday.

But according to NBI witnesses, the official was not in Cebu when Dacer was abducted.

"Also, we obtained a (airline passenger) manifest showing he left for Manila on the 23rd, a day before the abduction," Wycoco disclosed.

In an interview with the INQUIRER in December, Viña said he was in Manila on Nov. 28 for a PNP command conference but returned to Cebu the next day.

In an earlier radio interview, he admitted to being closely identified with the clan of former Cavite Gov. Juanito Remulla. One of the latter's political rivals, Gov. Bong Revilla, is a former client of Dacer's and has offered P1 million for information leading to the arrest of the PR man's abductors.

Invited for questioning

Wycoco said that Viña was one of two top Lacson aides subpoenaed by the NBI to shed light on the case. He declined to reveal the identity of the other, a police colonel.

Instead, he identified SPO3 Marino Soberano as the agent whom the witnesses had identified as the man who commandeered Dacer's car. Soberano, he said, is among the latest batch of PAOCTF agents to be invited for questioning.

The NBI director has said in past interviews that he may summon Lacson, Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, former PAOCTF operations chief, and Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao, former head of the task force in Luzon, to shed light on the case.

Like Viña, Soberano has taken a leave of absence, "but Soberano also opted for early retirement," Wycoco said.

He identified Soberano as "part of the PAOCTF team who conducted a raid on Marigold Street in Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque."

The house is near Dacer's home, prompting NBI investigators to suspect that the raid could have been a cover for an intensive surveillance operation on Dacer, who was abducted on the boundary between Makati and Manila three days after the raid.

All seven members of the team, led by police Insp. Wilson Pedido, have already been charged by the NBI before the Department of Justice for refusing to cooperate with investigators and for obstructing justice through the "willful suppression of evidence" in relation to the raid.

Text message

The other day, Wycoco disclosed that an investigator in the Dacer case had received a text message from Dacer's cellular phone. He said the text message read: "*Tulungan nyo po kami. Isa-isa na kaming pinapatay* (Help us, we're being killed one by one)."

Wycoco said he had confirmed that the message was sent from the cell phone that Dacer had with him when he disappeared.

The NBI chief theorized that the abductors were now the targets of the crime's masterminds, who wanted them silenced.

"So I sent back a text message. I gave (the senders) my number and assured them that if they need assistance, I'm willing to help," Wycoco said.

He said he had decided to reveal the latest developments in the investigation in order to assure Dacer's family and the public that the agency is doing its best to solve the case.

No order

In Cebu, Chief Supt. Tiburcio Fusilero, Central Visayas regional police director, said he had not received any order to take Viña into custody.

Fusilero said he would have known if such an order were made because he was with acting PNP chief Leandro Mendoza from Friday night until yesterday morning. Mendoza arrived in Cebu Friday to speak at a conference of security agency operators.

Lawyer Romulo Manapsal, the PAOCTF-Visayas deputy chief, also said that his office had not been directed to produce Viña.

Manapsal and other PAOCTF-Visayas officials met yesterday with Supt. Jose Glen Corpuz, Viña's successor, but Corpuz did not mention any such order, either.

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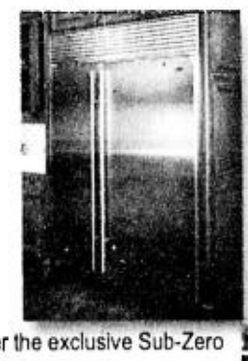

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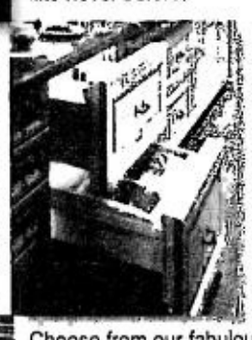

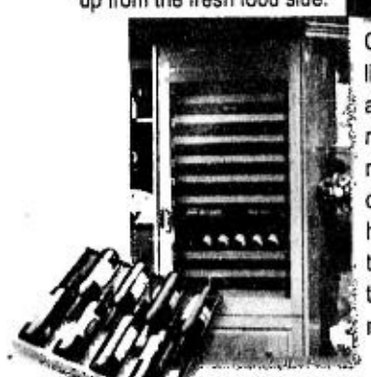

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Red Bull shoots for solo lead vs Alaska 5 today

Sixers, Spurs score

PHILADELPHIA — Allen Iverson scored 47 points and Dikembe Mutombo had 13 points, 13 rebounds and nine blocked shots against his former team as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Atlanta Hawks 108-103.

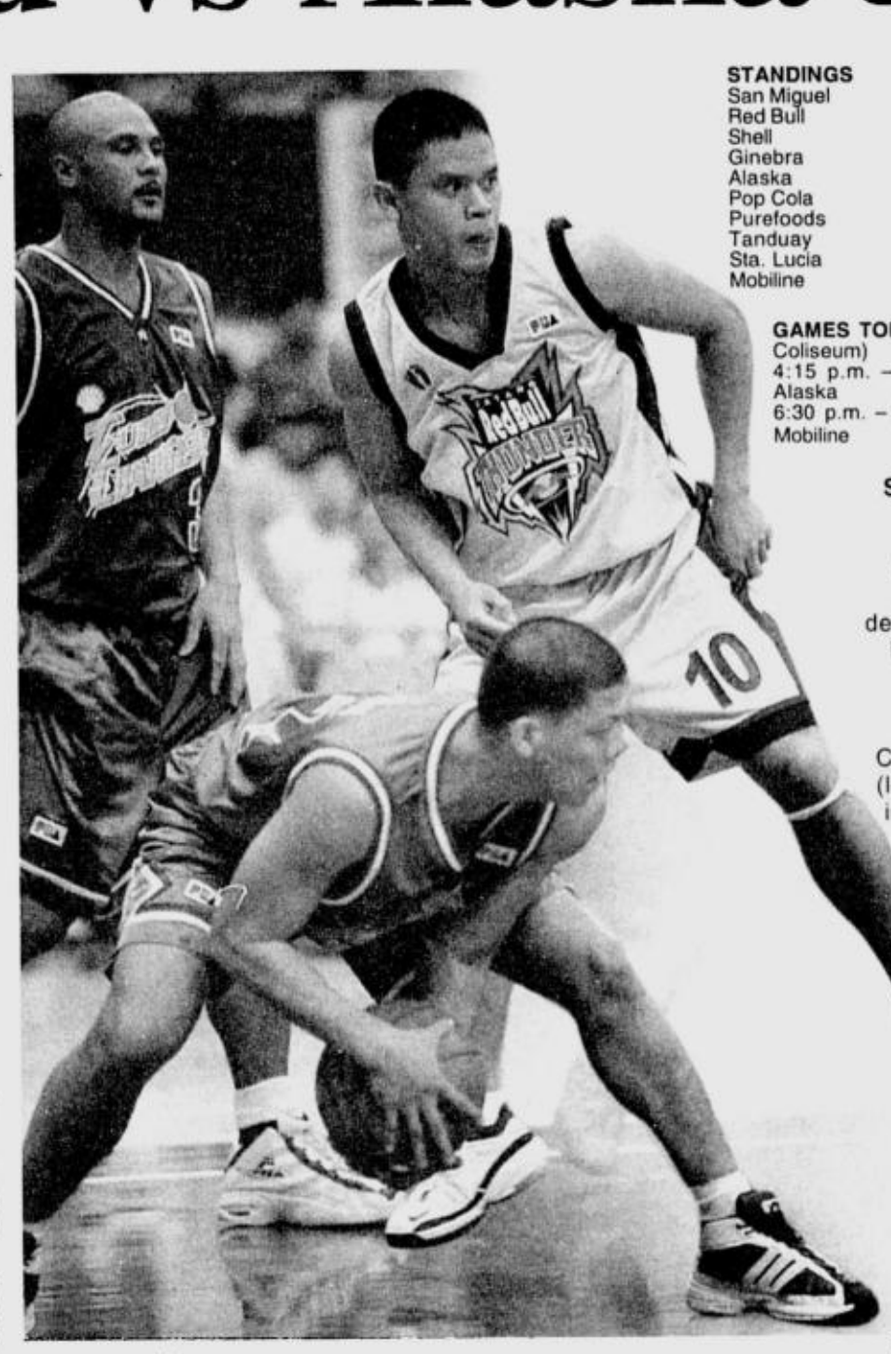
The Hawks have lost 10 straight, including nine since trading Mutombo to Philadelphia in a five-player deal on Feb. 22.

In Los Angeles, Tim Duncan scored 29 points and David Robinson reached a career milestone as San Antonio won its sixth straight.

Duncan also had 12 rebounds for the Spurs, who outscored the Lakers 10-6 in the extra period and sealed the win when the Lakers' Kobe Bryant, who had 38 points, missed a long jumper with less than two seconds left.

Robinson, in foul trouble most of the second half, had 11 points to surpass 19,000 in his career. *AP*

Complete results: Indiana 99, Cleveland 84; Philadelphia 108, Atlanta 103; Boston104, Washington 72; Miami 86, Minnesota 79; New Jersey 96, New York 83; Detroit 108, Chicago 75; Dallas 102, Golden State 73; Utah 107, Phoenix 95; Toronto 110, Seattle 99; Vancouver 95, Portland 85; San Antonio 93, LA Lakers 89 (OT); Sacramento 110, Denver 104. *AFP*



ROMY HOMILLADA

STANDINGS	W	L
San Miguel	6	2
Red Bull	6	2
Shell	5	3
Ginebra	5	3
Alaska	4	4
Pop Cola	4	4
Purefoods	3	5
Tanduay	3	6
Sta. Lucia	2	6
Mobiline	2	5

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:15 p.m. – Red Bull vs Alaska
6:30 p.m. – Purefoods vs Mobiline

SHELL guard Jun Marzan protects the ball from the preying defense of Red Bull's Junthy Valenzuela even as teammate Chris Jackson (left) looks on in their Friday PBA game. The Thunder won, 65-58.

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

BATANG Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao could imagine how Alaska Milk must have felt after beating it by one point the first time around.

That's why when the Thunder and the Aces face each other again today in the PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum, Guiao already knows what to expect.

"It was a pivotal win for both of us," said Guiao of the hard-fought 73-71 win last month. "We built on that win, while Alaska got motivated by it."

He was talking about how that victory helped them register three straight victories and a crack at the solo leadership with a 6-2 record they currently share with San Miguel Beer.

The win also helped the Thunder gain confidence under grinding pressure when they rallied from 13 points down in the fourth quarter to beat the Aces, who are probably the league's best protector of endgame lead.

"I know that they will come back and won't commit the lapses they made the first time around," said Guiao. "The loss probably drove them to score a three-game winning run."

POP Cola defeated Sta. Lucia Realty, 72-69, in the PBA road game in Laoag City last night. The Panthers climbed to 4-4 to tie Alaska Milk, while the Realtors absorbed their sixth loss in eight games.

Alaska actually lost to Shell after that game, but went on to win three straight since then as the Aces started to slowly solidify their game with their newcomers blending into Tim Cone's system of coaching.

But while Alaska's gaining much from youngsters like John Arigo, Red Bull has been getting big games from the infusion of grizzled veterans like Lowell Briones and Jay Mendoza.

"Everybody is stepping up in our team, that's the best aspect of our game right now," said Guiao, whose team hardly feels the absence of injured Mick Pennisi and Jimwell Torion with the arrival of Briones, Mendoza and rookie Willie Miller.

In the second game, Purefoods and Mobiline, teams which are similarly on a slump, collide.

The Hotdogs signed up Ronnie Magsanoc to fill up the void left by Dindo Pumaren and help the franchise snap out of a three-game losing run.

The Phone Pals, who accepted the league's unfavorable response over their protest of their game against Alaska, are holding a two-game slide.

Tiny's fight

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

JULIE Chan called to say she was selling her ticket to the Formula 1 set for March 18 in Kuala Lumpur. The ticket will include a Manila-KL-Manila plane ticket, a 4-night, 5-day stay in a hotel (free breakfast) and a shuttle bus from hotel to the race venue and back.

"I won the ticket from Shell's raffle promo but unfortunately, I do not have the time to go," Julie said. "The package costs $1,200. I'm selling it for only $500."

You can reach Julie at either 948-4116 or 933-4536.

Hurry! Ed Mapa has told me Rey Gamboa of Shell has sounded off his friends about the ticket, which is a bargain at $500.

To the uninitiated, the Formula 1 is the world's No. 1 motor sport. Its 17 legs are scheduled around the world. Defending champion Michael Shumacher of Germany was recently listed as the richest athlete in 2000 with net earnings of $59 million, three million more than Tiger Woods' take.

■

My sympathies to the family of Glicerio "Asing" Badilles, who died on March 8 in Cebu City.

"We offered a one-minute prayer for the repose of his soul during a break of our Inter-Cities tournament in Mandaluyong," said Eugene Torre, who called up yesterday to relay the news. "Asing was a pillar of chess, a pioneer in putting the sport to where it is now. We will miss him."

Eugene, who will next stage the National Chess Open starting on March 24, also waxed sentimental on another plane: He said his only child, Nicole, would soon leave the country to study in the United States.

"When she finally leaves, I will deeply miss her," Eugene said.

■

Taking the cue from Olympic boss Cito Dayrit, Lito Puyat said yesterday he will tell the World Basketball Federation (Fiba) to recognize Freddie Jalasco as the rightful president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

In a letter, Dayrit had earlier told Southeast Asian neighbors like Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei and Indonesia to adopt Jalasco as the BAP president. As a result of Dayrit's move, Chair Butch Tuason of the Philippine Sports Commission said he was set to extend financial help to Jalasco's Seaba cagefest slated in Manila shortly.

The next move of Tiny Literal, who insists that he is the BAP boss and not Jalasco, should be interesting.

I'm not saying that Tiny's fight is finally lost—although all indications seem to point to that. But with Puyat's move, it would seem that the coup d'grace had been delivered against Tiny.

Way to go.

Jalasco still BAP head—Puyat

FORMER two-term Fiba (International Basketball Federation) president Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat II has written his long-time friend, Fiba secretary general Stanislav Stankovic, informing him that Freddie Jalasco is still the president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

A long-time BAP president and now chair of the local cage body, Puyat told Stankovic to "ignore any request for (Fiba) recognition by Graham Lim and his group because Lim convened the BAP National Board in violation of the (BAR) Constitution and By-Laws."

Puyat informed Stankovic, the secretary general during his second term as FIBA president from 1980 to 1984, that the BAP case was elevated to the Philippine Olympic Committee Arbitration Commission where both Jalasco's and Lim's groups were heard and "the POC has decided to recognize Jalasco as BAP president."

Puyat also told Stankovic that Lim's group has refused to accept the POC decision and instead brought the case to court, "inviting government intervention and possible suspension of the POC by the International Olympic Committee, which considers the autonomy of its affiliates all over the world inviolable."

"I recall that in the late seventies, the POC was threatened with suspension by the IOC for alleged intervention by the government (of the late dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos)," Puyat wrote.

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball League will only abide by the decision of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad made this stand to settle the confusion on which group to recognize in the wake of the ongoing basketball leadership crisis.

"The PBL, like any other basketball league, was confused over the issue of which governing body to recognize in the country. We took it best to respect the decision or authority of the Philippine Olympic Committee and abide by it," Trinidad said.

PUYAT

Ucap sets 75 fights

AT least 75 hard-hitting fights are on tap when the Special Ucap Excess Derby unfolds at the Mandaluyong Coliseum on Thursday, March 15.

One hundred-fifty bird warriors have already been committed by members of the United Cockers Association of the Philippines (Ucap) in this one-night engagement sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds.

Heading the Chairman's Group is Patrick Antonio for the "meron" side while Butch Macasaet will be bannering the President's Group for the "wala" side.

Golf show on 13

GOLF POWER today features the highlights of the Seniors event in the 54th PAL Inter-Club held recently at the Club Filipino de Cebu and the Cebu Country Club in Cebu. Now on its sixth year, the show is aired every Sunday, 3 p.m., on IBC-13. Host is Philippine Sportswriters Association major awardee for amateur golf Gerard Cantada. The show is produced by Joe Cantada Sports and this week's golf special is sponsored by Philippine Airlines and Outback Steakhouse.

Sinfuego heads Corporate Cup winners

AGOJO, Enriquez Security Services, Inc. and J. Cole Co. Ltd prevailed in the team competitions while Godofredo Sinfuego led the individual winners in the 13th Philippine Corporate Cup golf championships held recently at the Fairways and Bluewater Resort Golf and Country Club in Boracay.

The Agojo team of Rolando Aguilar, Alfredo dela Pena, Agapito Suan Jr., Joel Yamyamin and Manolo Agojo compiled 372 points on rounds of 182-190 to beat the GP Barnes Underground squad for the Group I title.

GP Barnes, one of the presenting sponsors like the College Assurance Plan, Fairways and Bluewater and the Fil Estate Group of Companies, banked on the 108 points of Mike Adorio to shoot 368.

The other sponsors were Northwest Airlines, San Miguel and Scholl.

The Essi team of Teddy Alberto, Popoy Flores, Nonoy Braga, Eddie Enriquez and Noli Flores amassed 335 (169-166) to win by 14 over the Leroy Ang-led Mabuhay in Group II.

Marirose Afzelius, Jose Ernesto Avila, Irman Ita-as, Ricardo Sobredilla and Eric Soriano scored 247 (118-129) to run away with the Group III crown of the two-day event at the world-famous resort as Texarcana finished at 203.

Iloilo, Navy spikers shine

BY JUNE NAVARRO

ILONGGO'S Pride engaged Armed Forces Research Development Command in a tight battle before clinching the First Nestea Beach Volley National Open crown yesterday before a sun-baked crowd at the CCP grounds.

Their toughness tested to the hilt, Herminio Gallo and Parley Tupaz stood their ground and invaded the turf of Rustico Camangian and Rhovyl Verayo, both RP beach volleyball spikers, in eking out a 21-16, 25-23 victory.

"We had difficulty defeating Camangian and Verayo as both of them employed a sturdy defensive pattern not found among other teams," said the 24-year-old Gallo, a member of the indoor volleyball national team since 1994.

The victory earned Gallo and Tupaz the champion's purse of P30,000, an exquisitely crafted glass trophy and outright slots in the national beach volleyball training pool gearing up for future international tournaments in Asia.

All set for Eagle Ridge invitational tilt in Cavite

TWO courses offering completely different challenges will be used for the inaugural Eagle Ridge Invitational Tournament, the newest addition to the country's member-guest events, slated on March 23-25 at the country's biggest golf complex in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

The championship courses designed by Andy Dye and Nick Faldo have been picked to serve as venues for the Eagle Ridge tourney, setting the stage for a test of consistency among the two-man teams seeing action.

While Dye presents the tougher option, Faldo will be the course to conquer in the race for the titles at stake, the low gross award and the Class A, B, C and ladies divisions.

Registration has been upbeat since the announcement of an Open Astra Wagon as the grand raffle prize during the awards ceremonies on Sunday, March 25.

Other prizes include a Bose audio system, a laptop computer, video camera, digital cameral, audio component, colored TV, refrigerator, gas range, washing machine and many more.

Parnevik still on top

CORAL SPRINGS, Florida—Jesper Parnevik of Sweden maintained the lead at the Honda Classic Friday, and Ty Tryon stayed in the spotlight.

Parnevik shot a 5-under-par 67 Friday in the second round of the $3.2-million tournament and was three strokes ahead of John Huston (67), Mark Calcavecchia (68) and Chris Smith (68). Parnevik was at 132, 12 under after 36 holes on TPC at Heron Bay. *AP*

Delasin keeps bid alive; Rosales slides to 19th

DOROTHY Joy Delasin relentlessly pursued the leader until a late bogey on the 15th stopped the top rookie, carding a four-under-par 68 yesterday that kept her within four strokes off Jen Hanna after two rounds of the the $750,000 Welch's Circle K Championship in Tucson, Arizona.

Delasin racked up five birdies through 14 holes before taking her only bogey for the day as she joined Deb Richard, Pat Hurst and Se Ri Pak in sixth spot at 135, nine under at the Randolph north course.

Hanna's own 68 gave her a two-stroke lead on the fancied Annika Sorenstam. Hanna, bogey-free for 36 holes, broke the 36-hole tournament record with her 131 total.

Jennifer Rosales dropped out of the top 10 after a 70 for 138. She now shares 19th place.

Delasin, 20, is trying to recover lost ground in the money list where she is in 52nd place with $19,510, far behind the 21-year-old Rosales who has already won $56,949 for 21st place.

A total of 75 players made the cut pegged at 142, the lowest on the LPGA Tour this season.

Jong Arcano

Straight from the source's mouth

RACES are back at the Santa Ana Park this weekend.

But no matter how attractive the races the PRCI management has prepared, the taint brought about by that War General incident remains as fresh and vivid to the *bayang kareristas*.

Up to now, the PRCI management hasn't issued any apology nor any related announcemenrt just to appease or "heal" the wounds of the poor racing public who got fooled by that Jan. 26 fiasco.

Today, the PRCI plays a proud host to the anniversary races of the Philracom, whose top official, best remembered for snubbing his former boss Erap Estrada during a Presidential Gold Cup ceremony a few years back, is still holding on to his post like an annoying clam.

Hey, PRCI people, wouldn't it be cool if you take some time today to explain to *kareristas* what really happened on that embarrassing night?

Say, just issue an official statement and let your club announcers read it so that everybody, including thousands of Filipino *kareristas* based in the United States, may know.

If you can't, this space is always available for you to issue any clarifications.

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

Simple lang di ba? Di yung binabalewala nyo na lang ang Philracom.

■

Ever wonder why this high-ranking Philracom remains with the non-performing racing body up to now?

No less than a Philracom source told us that this official, an appointee of disgraced former president Estrada, handed out bonuses to Philracom employees recently so as to trick them into signing a petition expressing their support for him.

Question now is did Malacañang also allow itself to be gypped by this official?

The source added this official is the same fellow who gave the go-signal to donate a cool P1 million in unclaimed dividends to the Mare Organization of former First Lady Loi Ejercito Estrada. A huge chunk of those *kareristas'* money also reportedly went to a parish church in Lipa City where the said official hails from.

"*Ang kapal ng mukha. Walang ka delica-delicadeza*," the source told us, referring to the official.

■

This afternoon's Race 8 is the highlight of today's festivities at the Santa Ana Park.

Wind Blown, the former pride of sportsman-businessman Sandy Javier and the *bayang kareristas'* choice as Horse of the Year for 2000, is plunging back to action barely three months after being upset by the late Phenomenal in the Millennium Cup.

Under a new owner and jockey, Wind Blown, according to PDI racing expert Romy "B.I." dela Peña and *taho* specialist Rudy "Borbe" Millado, is today's "patok na patok."

Today's Chairman's Cup will be fittingly held in honor of former Philracom boss Augusto Benedicto Santos.

Unlike the one who's at the Philracom helm at present, Tata Ochie, as *kareristas* fondly call Santos, surely deserves the respect.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. St. Emilion/Bravada 2. Hurry King 3. Champs Elysees 4. Sir Olizon 5. Heavenly Wings

Race 2—1. Emancipated Belle 2. Strike It Rich 3. Gold Marlin

Race 3—1. Crisel Joy 2. Filthy Rich 3. My Prayer 4. Hunting Treasure 5. Infinite Voyage

Race 4—1. Harry's Up 2. Sweet Lover 3. Coventina 4. Ysabela

Race 5—1. Silver Story 2. Sky Hawk 3. Speed Master 4. Mr. Purao 5. Sovereignty

Race 6—1. Terrific 2. Dynamite Miss 3. Fireball

Race 7—1. Manila Millennium 2. Hostile Witness 3. Grande Ecole 4. Diva 5. Mr. Lucas

Race 8—1. Wind Blown 2. Gold Edition 3. Hazmoore 4. Materiales Fuertes

Race 9—1. My Indy 2. James Joy 3. Musika 4. Something Best 5. Dynasty

Race 10—1. The Magician/Merry Melody 2. Air Express 3. Baby My Beloved 4. Petitioner 5. Let Me Pass

Race 11—1. Dixie Melody 2. Bemedalled Ruler 3. Imperial Passion 4. She's So Sure 5. Pep Up

Race 12—1. Grand Dancer 2. Talk to Patsy 3. Wag Ingay 4. Key to Heaven/Full Blast 5. Free Radical

Race 13—1. Dragon Strike 2. Expediter 3. Water Polo 4. Silent Wind 5. Avalanche

Race 14—1. Gold Mark 2. Respect the Ace 3. Houdini 4. Michael's Way 5. Pasikatera

SPORTS ON TV COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: PGA —The Honda Classic, Third Round at 1 p.m. on Star Sports
LPGA Welch's / Circle K Championships, Third Round at 11 p.m. on ESPN
Golfglobe 2001 at 5:30 p.m. on Star Sports
BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
US NCAA—ACC Tournament, Semifinal #1at 8 a.m. on ESPN

Sunday SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

BIG DOME THRILLER

Peñalosa to fight Japanese

BETTER fight than wait.

Recognizing the need for WBC international super flyweight champion Gerry Peñalosa to be in tiptop shape, lawyer Rudy Salud has decided to proceed with his boxer's title defense against former WBA light flyweight king Keiji Yamaguchi on May 5 at the Araneta Coliseum.

PEÑALOSA

SALUD

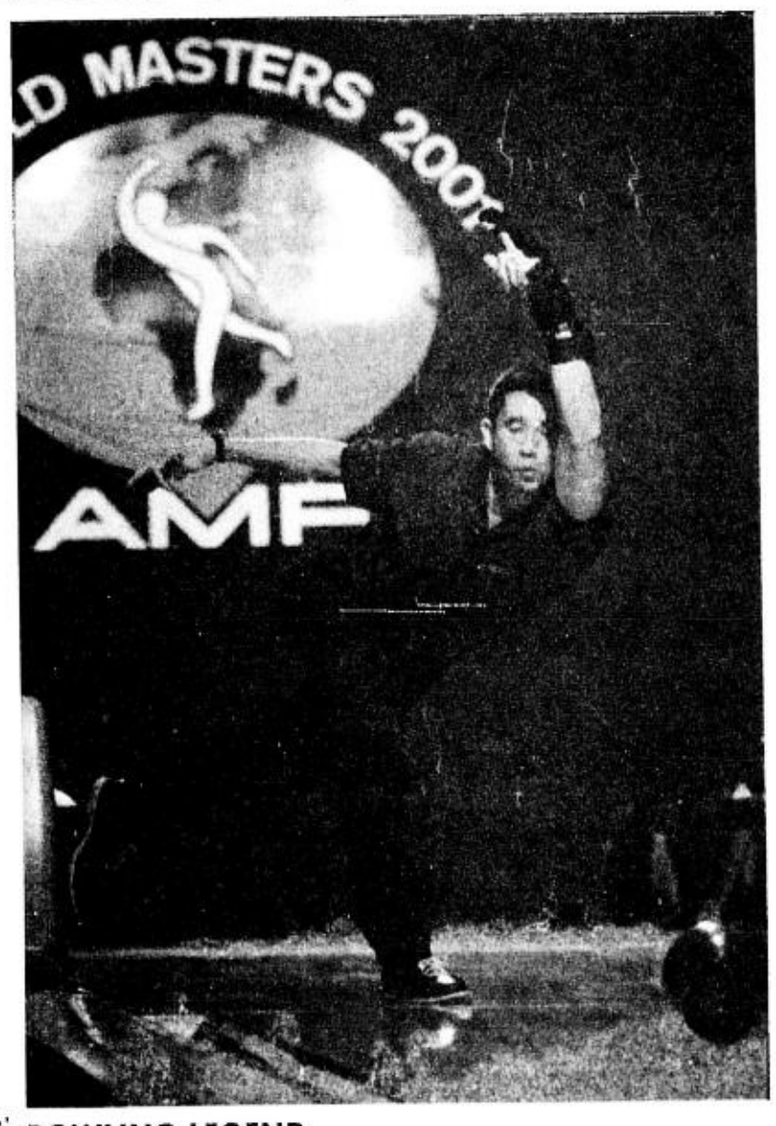
Peñalosa is waiting for a mandatory shot at the winner of the May 20 title bout between Masamori Tokuyama and former champion In Joo Cho of Korea.

Being the No. 1 contender, Peñalosa could have gotten the first crack at the Japan-born North Korean Masamori, but he stepped aside for No. 2 Cho to pave the way for a historic first WBC title fight in the North Korea capital of Pyongyang.

After learning that promoter Kusung Lee planned to stage the fight in Seoul, Salud protested the violation of their agreement reached at the WBC convention last October and requested WBC president Jose Sulaiman to order Masamori to defend against Peñalosa either in Tokyo or Manila in May.

With the verdict uncertain, Salud opted to go ahead with the May 5 international title defense to be promoted by Viva Vintage Sports Inc. president Vic del Rosario.

"I don't want Peñalosa to suffer the same fate as other Filipino champions whose title defenses abroad were often postponed, resulting to disruption in their preparation and out of peak condition," said Salud.



BOWLING LEGEND
Filipino Paeng Nepomuceno flashes his old form en route to beating Canadian Diane Buchanan, 457-411, in the 1st round of the World Tenpin Masters in Dagenham, England, Friday. AP

Scooter race draws record field

THE SHELL Advance Super Scooter Championships finally come off the wraps today with another record field at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite.

Jolet Jao, Sonny Villarama, Mark Anthony Chua, Noel Acuna, Chito Barcenas and Geoffrey Ballesteros will defend the titles in their respective categories in this annual series organized by the E.L. Racing Tech in cooperation with Shell Advance.

Jao will seek his third straight overall title in the centerpiece expert open category against a tough field which include 1998 champion Carlo Yalo, Edwin Buenaventura and Ballesteros.

Motocross support

THE CALTEX-Revtex Motocross Team in the ongoing Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) Motocross Challenge got a boost with the renewed commitment of support by Caltex Phils. Inc. Motocross champion Glenn Aguilar, the Caltex-Revtex team captain, was present during the recent contract signing also attended by Chris Aguilar, Caltex Brands coordinator; Enrico de Leon, brands manager; Brian Drummond, Caltex Lubricants-Phils. general manager; Francisco Arzadon, Lubricants Marketing Services manager; and Rey Trespalacioreal, Revtex product manager.

Biggest kitefest today in Kalibo

THE BIGGEST and most prestigious kite-flying competition in the country flies high in Kalibo, Aklan, today at the Roxas Memorial College of Arts and Trade .

Open to all individuals, groups of family members or friends, the event has four categories: Junior Kite for Children, Flat Kite, Geometric Kite and Figure Kite Category.

Cash prizes and trophies are at stake in the annual competition, which will also be held in Manila and other key cities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Apart from Kalibo, the kitefest will also be held in Davao on March 18; Pangasinan on April 1; Tagbilaran, Bohol on April 8; Baguio on April 22; Puerto Princesa on April 29 and Metro Manila on May 13.

Graf loses $.6M to mob; Rios falls

NEW YORK—Tennis star Steffi Graf was duped in a mob-infiltrated stock fraud scheme that bilked investors of $50 million around the world, a source close to the investigation said Friday. Graf, identified in court Thursday only as a professional tennis player, was scammed of more than $600,000 in a three-month period.

In Scottsdale, Arizona, defeated Chilean Marcelo Rios, 7-5, 6-2, on Friday night to advance to the semifinals of the Franklin Templeton Classic. In the semifinals, Hewitt will face Francisco Clavet of Spain, who upset second-seeded Andre Agassi in the first round and defeated Nicolas Massu of Chili in Friday's quarterfinals, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

In Indian Wells, California, Monica Seles and Conchita Martinez both crashed out of the Tennis Masters Series. Fourth-seeded Seles lost Friday night to 23-year-old Tathiana Garbin of Italy, 7-6 (6), 3-6, 6-4. Elena Bovina of Russia celebrated her 18th birthday one day early by beating fifth-seeded Martinez, 6-4, 6-4.

Martina Hingis, the top seed, routed Kveta Hrdlickova of the Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-0.

Defending champion Lindsay Davenport, seeded second, needed only 48 minutes to eliminate Nicole Pratt of Australia, 6-2, 6-1, and third-seeded Venus Williams dominated Sarah Pitkowski of France, 6-0, 6-1 in 64 minutes. *AP*

1st Nestea Beach Volley National Open

QUARTERFINALS
March 9 results:

Teams			Score
Men's Division			
Dumaguete	def.	Cebu Wild Ducks	21-18, 21-19
Ilonggo's Pride	def.	AFRDC	21-19, 21-16
AFRDC	def.	Batangas	21-19, 21-18
Bicol	def.	Cebu Wild Ducks	21-14, 21-14
Women's Division			
PSC New Star	def.	Phil. Air Force 3	21-18, 21-19
Phil. Navy 1	def.	Phil Air Force 1	21-11, 21-11
Phil. Navy 2	def.	Phil. Army	21-11, 21-7
Phil. Air Force 2	def.	San Sebastian 1	19-21, 21-12 15-8

Find out who will emerge as the Philippines' best in beach volleyball!

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PLENARY LECTURES

April 2, 2001
I. Application of Information & Technology in Pediatrics
II. Environmental Poisoning and its Genetic Implication in Children
III. Immunization in Children: Domestic & International Issues

April 3, 2001
I. TB: The Great Mimicker
II. The Impact of HMO's on the Quality of Health Care in the Phils.
III. Kangaroo Care

April 4, 2001
I. Genetically Engineered Foods: Are our Children Vulnerable?
II. Nutritional Health Profile of the Filipino School Child: What Needs to be Done?
III. Teleconference - Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome
IV. Emergency Preparedness in Pediatric Clinics

SIMULTANEOUS SYMPOSIA

April 2, 2001
I. Diagnostics in Childhood Pulmonary Disorders
II. Congenital Neurologic Anomalies
III. Post-Surgical Outcome of Congenital & Acquired Childhood Heart Diseases
IV. State-of-the-Art Pain Relief in Children
V. Parenting in the Midst of High-Tech World: Effects of Computerization in Children
VI. Information & Technology I
VII. New Modalities in the Management of Rheumatologic Disorders

April 4, 2001
I. Pharmacotherapy in GI Disease
II. Genetic & Endocrine Disorders
III. Voiding Dysfunction: Recognition & Treatment
IV. Movement Disorders in Children
V. The Status of Organ Transplantation in the Philippines
VI. Challenges in Adolescent Sexuality
VII. Information & Technology II

FOREIGN SPEAKERS

K.C. LUN, M.D.
Medical Informatics
National University of Singapore

CHARLES RICHARD SANTERE, Ph.D.
Food & Nutrition
Purdue University, Indiana, U.S.A

ARMANDO CORREA, M.D.
Chief of Pediatrics
Texas Children's Hospital

DEE HODGE, M.D.
Emergency Pediatrics
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Washington University School of Medicine

JILL SEWELL, M.D.
Division of Pediatrics
Australian Pediatric Society

SO KWAN TONG, M.D.
Chief of Service
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Hong Kong Pediatric Society

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Mom: Oras-oras talaga kita kukulitin. Uuwi ka ba?

Billy: Malapit na, ma.

Mom: Hello Billy. Pinagkala ko nang uuwi ka.

Billy: Kanino?

Mom: Kay Tita Merlee mo sa Canada, kay Tito Jo sa London, kay Kann sa Saudi, kay Yaya Gigi mo sa Singapore.

Mom: Hello Billy.

Billy: Ma? Kala ko nasa mall ka?

Mom: Oo nga. Papaalala ko lang, dapat maganda ang pasalubong mo.

Billy: Maganda talaga ang pasalubong ko... ang magiging manugang n'yo.

Mom: Naku! May dalang Grasya!

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ 2 pro-Erap protesters charged with attempting to stab anti-riot cop
A24

■ 6 jueteng operators rounded up in Muntinlupa
A24

Five wounded in PCU blast

BY JEROME ANING

FIVE people were injured when a pillbox exploded during a clash between rival fraternities at the Philippine Christian University in Ermita, Manila on Friday night.

The Western Police District arrested 12 PCU students said to be members of the Batangas Varsitarian fraternity.

The 12 students are facing charges of malicious mischief and multiple physical injuries.

Police said PCU students Wilma Cornelio, Jose Francis Lureta, Gerald de la Cruz and Joan Sumahid, and pedestrian Eloy Garganera sustained shrapnel wounds and burns and were taken to the Philippine General Hospital.

Police held for questioning Errol Oprialasa, Virgilio Balahada, Martin Belino Jr., Jesse Capulong, Philirner Cediz, Robert Jungco,
FIVE WOUNDED/ A24

Two who escaped from city jail caught while taking a break

BY JEROME ANING

TWO men bolted from their detention cell in Station 5 of the Western Police District at dawn yesterday, but were caught minutes later while they were resting at the old Department of Finance building in Rizal Park.

Michael de los Santos, 26, of Kagitingan Street, Tondo; and a 16-year-old boy from Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, said their guards were sound asleep and did not hear them break the padlock of their cell about 4 a.m.

WPD director Chief Supt. Avelino Razon Jr. ordered station 5 commander Supt. Miguel Laurel to investigate and file administrative sanctions against the guards who were on duty at the time of the escape.

De los Santos and the boy were arrested two weeks ago for robbery and vagrancy, respectively. They were detained in one of three cells at Station 5 on United Nations Avenue in Ermita.

The two detainees said the padlock of the cell was "a bit loose" and they were able to open it by hitting it hard several times. They claimed the desk officer
TWO WHO/ A24

11-year-old boy found beaten to death

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE PARENTS of 11-year-old Charlie Dave G. Tud are at a loss about the senseless killing of their son, who was found dead with cuts and bruises beside a creek in Quezon City yesterday.

Tud, a resident of Purok 1-A Talipapang Gala, Phase 2, Barangay Culiat, had been missing for more than 24 hours when his body was found yesterday morning near a creek, in the same barangay, said investigator SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU).

The boy's body had bruises and there were gaping wounds on his forehead and on the back of his head, police said. He also had a laceration on the mouth, Barrameda added.

Police are looking
11-YEAR-OLD/ A24

Wazzzzup?

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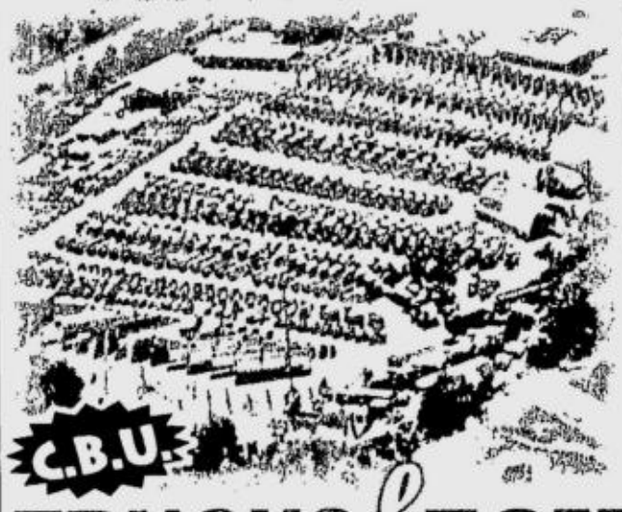

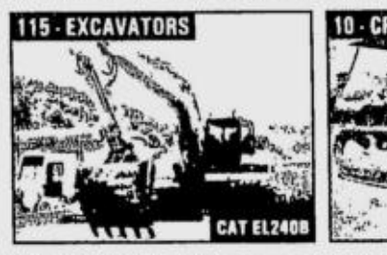

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2 pro-Erap protesters charged with attempting to stab anti-riot cop

TWO pro-Estrada protesters yesterday were detained and charged with frustrated homicide for allegedly trying to stab one of the anti-riot policemen who dispersed their picket near the Supreme Court building in Ermita, Manila on Friday.

Arrested were Frederick Samson, 25, single and resident of Main Street, Sampaloc, Manila, and Christopher Alcantara, 24, of Marang Street, Quirino, Quezon City.

It was learned that Samson and Alcantara were members of a group called People Unite-Movement-Philippines, said to be an affiliate of the People's Movement Against Poverty, one of the major organizers of pro-Estrada protests in the metropolis.

In a press statement, PMAP national spokesman Ronald Lumbao accused the WPD of brutality. He said the policemen carried out the dispersal after media people covering the picket had left.

During the clash, which happened around 4 p.m., Samson and Alcantara allegedly drew daggers and lunged at PO1 Grant Saavedra of the WPD civil disturbance management group.

The anti-riot policemen said they decided to drive away the 200 Estrada supporters when the latter tried to occupy the north-bound lane of Taft Avenue. They said the Estrada supporters attacked them with rocks, bottles, wooden blocks and other missiles.

PO1 Saavedra was not injured as the daggers failed to pierce his thick Keviar bulletproof vest. But one of the daggers was left stuck in his vest.

PO1 Saavedra and two other CDMG members, PO1 Alvin Ching and Gualda Tura, handcuffed Samson and Alcantara and brought them to WPD headquarters.

Samson and Alcantara were later turned over to the WPD general assignments section for interrogation.

Samson and Alcantara are also facing charges of assault on a person of authority and possession of deadly weapons.

Lumbao claimed "at least 37 demonstrators were hurt, scores arrested and a few others missing."

"It was a one-sided clash as the policemen beat scampering demonstrators," he said. "Many of the demonstrators were wounded in the back."

Several of those hurt were brought to the Philippine General Hospital and were discharged after being given first aid for cuts, bruises and scratches.

The PMAP has been picketing at the corner of Taft Avenue and Padre Faura Street, just in front of the Manila Science High School and across the SC building's gate.

They were protesting the decision last week of the 13 Supreme Court justices to legitimize the Macapagal administration and declare that Estrada had "constructively resigned."

Lumbao said it would be useless to talk to the WPD director, Chief Supt. Avelino Razon Jr., whom he labeled as a "known anti-Estrada partisan from the much-politicized police force, who was among those who led the mob at Mendiola Bridge during the last hours of President Estrada in Malacañang." *Jerome Aning*

Six jueteng operators rounded up in Munti

BY ALCUIN PAPA

THE BEST efforts of law enforcers are apparently not enough to curb *jueteng* as police on Friday arrested six suspected *jueteng* operators during a raid in Muntinlupa City.

Muntinlupa police arrested Antonio Lahuno, 39, married, of Purok 6, Barangay Putatan, Muntinlupa; Marcial Lopez, 34, married, of Estanislaw Street, Lakeview, Putatan;

Leonardo Martinez, 43, married, of Narra Street, Lakeview, Putatan; Roberto de la Cruz, 50, of Salvacion, Putatan; Jericho Brusas, 27, married, of Cupang; and Ricardo Ramos, 55, of San Francisco Street, Putatan.

Police said they received information that illegal *jueteng* operations were being held at the Lakeview, Putatan area and promptly conducted a raid at about 11 p.m.

Police seized various *jueteng* paraphernalia and bet money from the suspects, who are now detained at the Muntinlupa City Jail and will be charged with illegal gambling.

A police source who asked not to be named told the INQUIRER that *jueteng* operators in Muntinlupa and other areas south of Manila have been using "guerilla tactics" to elude authorities.

The source claimed that the operators continue to dole out protection money to corrupt police officials and politicians in their areas to ensure smooth operations.

"You notice that no big fish has been caught?" the source asked. "Those arrested are only the small fry when most in the city know who the big operators are."

Last year, Supt. Ronaldo Navarro, chief of the Muntinlupa police, was relieved of his command for failure to stop *jueteng* in his area.

Gerra Ejercito, said to be a *jueteng* operator in Muntinlupa and niece of deposed President Estrada, wrote to tell the Southern Police District director, Chief Supt. Manuel Cabigon, that she had stopped operations in her area and that she gave protection money to Navarro.

But early this year, the Office of the Ombudsman cleared Navarro of involvement in *jueteng*.

Police never arrested Ejercito despite her confession.

This prompted Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi to challenge top police officials to arrest Ejercito.

The life of children's parties

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

CALL him Cookie the Clown. He has been the life of many children's parties over the past 15 years.

Emmanuel Simpao, a 41-year-old Dela Salle University graduate, says he can no longer remember how many parties he has hosted. But there is still something to look forward to every time he prepares to entertain another batch of children, he says.

"Playing the role of a clown is always fun," he says. "Sometimes when I am in a party, I forget that I am the host because I have fun along with the kids and the other parents and guests. It is always a challenge for me to make the one or two kids who are scared of me at the start of the party to have fun in the end."

Simpao first wore a clown's suit when he was 18 and part of the DLSU Drama Guild. He was one of the stage hands who came in between scenes in a children's play to change the sets.

It was only one of the many roles that he played as part of the drama guild and later on as a member of the production company SRO Philippines under Roxanne Lapus.

Simpao says the theater training taught him how to get the attention of the audience and how to live the part he plays. He combined his theater training with his natural ability to get along with children.

"I have always been good with kids," he says. "I remember that my nephews and nieces always wanted to go to our house and run up the stairs to my room because we were always playing around. We would change costumes and I would scare them and read them stories. They loved it."

Simpao was so good with children that he was always asked by family members and friends to host the parties for their children. He thought, why not make money out of it?

Not all fun

"I was so nervous when I did my first party," he recalls. "But after the initial jitters I noticed that I was having a great time. I did not look at it as work. I was just as excited as they were with the games."

Simpao was able to combine his party-hosting job with his work as an advertising executive of the defunct Manila Chronicle. But after a few years, he eventually became a full-time clown in the late '80s.

He and a group of friends are considered the pioneers in the business of professional party hosting. From friends and relatives, his clients expanded to include children of executives and residents of posh villages including Forbes Park and Dasmariñas Village.

Simpao, however, stresses that being a clown is not all fun and games. He remembers a time when he was insulted by some rich matrons who were not even part of the party.

"There are still people out there who look down on people who play clowns," he says. "They think that just because we are clowns, they can do anything they like. I tell them we are people too and we deserve respect."

Rough kids

There are also times when guests are offended by his jokes. When that happens, he promptly apologizes and quickly thinks of something else to say or do.

"I make sure that there are no gaps in the party," he says. "I always have to say something or maybe turn up the volume of the music if I feel I need a rest. Doing a party for at least three hours straight can be exhausting."

There are also children who can get too rough and punch him during parties. When that happens, he tries to make the child to realize that hitting the clown is bad. The children eventually apologize and become friendly during the party.

"Dealing with kids is hard but easy at the same time," Simpao says. "It is easy because they laugh at the smallest things but it is hard also because they can see through you and they know if you are not enjoying yourself. If you are not enjoying yourself, why would they?"

Simpao says that even when the clown's job is difficult, it is a little bit easier for someone like him because he remains a clown even after the clown's makeup and costume have been taken off.

"It is a part of me," he says of being a clown. "I am always clowning around even when I am normal, so to speak. I am a kid at heart who never grew up. I still watch cartoons and I still read comic books."

Weddings, debuts

He hosts at least three parties a week. Sometimes, he is booked a year in advance.

"The *yayas* are the best referrals," he says. "I try to give people their money's worth by giving them more than what they pay for. I am not worried about the time. I don't mind extending the party especially when we are having a great time."

Simpao has branched out to hosting other kinds of gatherings, such as wedding parties and debuts, where he need not wear his clown's suit.

He has also been called upon to help some of the country's leading restaurant chains, like Tropical Hut, Red Ribbon, Jollibee and McDonald's, train their in-house party hosts. He has a module on how to deal with children, especially how to get them past their shyness and make them become part of the party.

"It has always been fun and I am rewarded every time when I see people having a great time," he says.

FUNNYMAN Simpao tries to cheer up a young party guest.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, March 11, 2001
2nd Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: **Gen 15:5-12, 17-18**

Yahweh brought him outside and said to him, "Look up at the sky and count the stars if you can. Your descendants will be like that."

Abram believed Yahweh who, because of this, held him to be an upright man. And he said, "I am Yahweh who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession."

Then Abram asked, "My Lord, how am I to know that it shall be mine?" Yahweh replied, "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtle dove and a young pigeon." Abram brought all these animals, cut them in two, and laid each half facing its other half, but he did not cut the birds in half. The birds of prey came down upon them, but Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep came over Abram, and a dreadful darkness took hold of him.

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between the halves of the victims. On that day Yahweh made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this country from the river of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates."

2nd Reading: Phil 3:17—4:1

Unite in imitating me, brothers and sisters, and look at those who walk in our way of life. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. I have said it to you many times, and now I repeat it with tears: they are heading for ruin; their belly is their god and they feel proud of what should be their shame. They only think of earthly things.

For us, our citizenship is in heaven, from where we await the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord. He will transfigure our lowly body, making it like his own body, radiant in Glory, through the power, which is his to submit everything to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, you my glory and crown, be steadfast in the Lord.

Gospel: **Lk 9:28-36**

About eight days after Jesus had said all this, he took Peter, John and James and went up the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became dazzling white. Two men were talking with Jesus: Moses and Elijah. They had just appeared in heavenly glory and were telling him about his departure that had to take place in Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions had fallen asleep, but they awoke suddenly and saw Jesus' Glory and the two men standing with him. As Moses and Elijah were about to leave, Peter said to him, "Master, how good it is for us to be here for we can make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." For Peter didn't know what to say. And no sooner had he spoken than a cloud appeared and covered them; and the disciples were afraid as they entered the cloud. Then these words came from the cloud, "This is my Son, my Chosen one, listen to him." And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was there alone.

The disciples kept this to themselves at the time, telling no one of any thing they had seen.

Commentary

There is no human person in one's right senses, who is naturally attracted by pain, humiliation, and suffering. Jesus had just given his discourse on discipleship and the cross. The three apostles, who would be with him in the garden were given a glimpse of the glory that Jesus relinquished in solidarity with humans. The agonizing Jesus they would witness in the garden before the supreme moment of fidelity to his Father was the same Jesus now acknowledged again by the voice as at the Jordan, as the beloved Son. God is faithful both to the suffering and the glorious Jesus. Faith in this faithful God is what sustains us to hold both pain and joy as aspects of the one human reality.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Discharged witness— Even if the discharged witness should lack some of the qualifications enumerated by Section 9, Rule 119 of the Rules of Court, his testimony will not, for that reason alone, be discarded or disregarded. In the discharge of a co-defendant, the court may reasonably be expected to err; but such error in discharging an accused has been held not to be a reversible error. This is upon the principle that such error of the court does not affect the competency and the quality of the testimony of the discharged defendant. Stated differently, the improper discharge of an accused will not render inadmissible his testimony nor distract from his competency as a witness. Once the discharge is ordered, any future development showing that any, or all, of the five conditions have not been actually fulfilled, may not affect the legal consequences of the discharge, and the admissibility and credibility of his testimony if otherwise admissible and credible. Any witting or unwitting error of the prosecution in asking for the discharge, and of the court in granting the petition, no question of jurisdiction accused of the acquittal provided by the rules, and of the constitutional guarantee against against double jeopardy. [Citations omitted.] [*Per Curiam, En Banc*, People v. Bariquit, G.R. No. 122733, October 2, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

San Juan prisoner gets 14 more years for killing co-detainee

A MAN who had been detained in the San Juan jail would spend 14 more years in jail after a Pasig City judge found him guilty of killing another prisoner in 1998.

Joseph Jerwin Salazar is guilty of killing Romeo Macaspac Sr., of Libertad Street in Pasay City, according to Pasig City Regional Trial Court Judge Jesus Bersamira.

But the judge lowered to homicide the murder charges police initially filed against Salazar even as he ordered the accused to pay the cost of suit and the Macaspac's family P50,000.

"(Salazar's) culpability is only for homicide and not murder because the qualifying circumstance of abuse... lacks evidentiary support," the decision said.

Court records showed that members of the Western Police District arrested Macaspac on April 7, 1998 after he was charged with seven counts of violating the Batasang Pambansa 22 or the bouncing check law.

About 3 p.m. of the same day, Manila police turned Macaspac over to the San Juan police station, where he was to be temporarily detained.

Salazar was the jail's assistant *mayor* and interviewed Macaspac.

But Macaspac, who was obviously troubled over his arrest, was said to have "haughtily rebuffed Salazar who also wanted to assist him in having his fingerprints taken," the decision related.

Salazar apparently took the rejection seriously. After Macaspac's fingerprints had been taken, Salazar grabbed him and dragged him inside the cell.

The other inmates jumped into the fray and also started beating up Salazar and jail officers had to enter the cell and stop the fight.

Salazar was brought to the police station clinic for treatment, after which he returned to the cell.

But Macaspac's relatives asked that he be admitted to the San Juan Medical Center (SJMC) on April 11 where he died five days later.

The doctors at the SJMC diagnosed Macaspac to have suffered abrasions, contusions, and hematoma in different parts of the body. He also suffered punctures in the chest and a hemorrhage in the back of the brain.

During the trial, Salazar denied the accusations against him. He claimed he was speaking to his wife in the visiting area when the brawl took place.

The judge noted that Salazar's "pretext of non-involvement in the killing of the victim rings hollow notwithstanding his designation as jail assistant *mayor*, whose principal duty was to look after the physical condition and well-being of the inmates."

Agnes E. Donato

Two who escaped . . .

(From page A23)

and cell sentries were asleep and did not see them open the gate.

Other inmates in the cell who chose not to escape later woke up the sleeping guards and told them what had happened.

Officers on duty led by SPO4 Lito Fernandez quickly ordered a headcount and then a manhunt after confirming that two inmates were missing.

Police spotted De los Santos and the boy taking a rest in front of the old DOF building, now occupied by the National Museum.

They said they could only flee on foot because they did not have money for the fare.

The fugitives said they were afraid to walk the streets because patrolling guards or barangay watch men might spot them.

Boy who fell into QC river found dead

THE first light of dawn brought great sadness to Ronnie Hesmello yesterday morning.

After looking for more than 12 hours for his four-year-old son Ronel who fell into a Quezon City river, Hesmello was finally reunited with the boy.

But Ronel was already dead when he was fished out of the Dario River yesterday morning, said investigator PO2 Pedrito Miranda of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU).

Hesmello, of Lot 3 11th St., Barangay Damayang Lagi, Quezon City, was playing with his friends along the river Friday when he accidentally slipped and fell into the murky waters at about 5 p.m., Miranda said.

"It's not really water but muck," a CPD investigator told the Inquirer. "So chances are, you'd really drown or suffocate if you fell into that river. It has claimed many lives."

A rescue team from the Metro Manila Development Authority scoured the river but did not find any trace of the boy, Miranda said. The boy's father joined the search.

Ronnie was still looking for his boy when daybreak came yesterday around 6 a.m. And with the dawn came the boy's body, swept by the tide toward the riverbank. Ronel's mother Irene refused to have her son autopsied, Miranda added. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Five wounded in PCU blast

(From page A23)

Frederick Ramos, Arnel Castillo, Edgardo Garcia, Nonelito Balthas, Abelardo Caponpon and Paul Sablan.

PO3 Ramilo Vergado of WPD Station 5 said a brawl between a member of the Batangas Varsitarian and a member of the Tau Gamma Phi fraternity took place inside the PCU compound at the corner of Taft Avenue and Pedro Gil Street at about 8 p.m.

The brawl quickly turned into a free-for-all when members of both gangs joined the fray, throwing fists and debris, police said.

Witnesses told police that someone from the side of the Batangas Varsitarian threw the pillbox.

The members of the Batangas Varsitarian all denied throwing the pillbox and instead accused members of the Tau Gamma Phi of starting the clash.

Lawyers and parents of the suspects are now negotiating for a settlement with the families of the victims in exchange for the dropping of charges, police said.

11-year-old boy found . . .

(From page A23)

for an unidentified 17-year-old suspected drug addict who was allegedly the last person seen with the boy.

Witnesses said they saw Tud with the 17-year-old near the creek Thursday night. The addict was allegedly snuffing rugby at the time.

Tud's parents said their son did not come home that night.

At around 7 a.m. yesterday, a passerby, identified as Melanie Serosa, discovered the boy's body at the bank of the creek.

Barrameda said he was still getting information about the 17-year-old addict to confirm the young man's alleged involvement in Tud's killing.

Rewarding viewing experience

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MANY moviegoers want to see something new, not just the nth rehash of the usual popular film format. By that yardstick, they should like viewing **Cameron Crowe**'s "Almost Famous."

It's like no formula flick we can think of. There've been movies about diverse themes like growing up, rites of passage, the rock scene and parent-sibling relationships, but this is the first film we know of that has put all these different elements together.

Even better, filmmaker Crowe has based his movie on his own teenage experiences as a contributing writer covering the rock scene.

Like the title character in his movie, he too toured the United States with a rock band and had his smugly WASP values rudely challenged by the hedonistic, drug-laced lifestyle of the celebrity rock musician he was assigned to write about.

In the movie, Crowe's character, 15-year-old **William (Patrick Fugit)** is assigned by Rolling Stone magazine to interview the upcoming band, Stillwater. This seemingly harmless assignment terrifies William's mother **(Frances McDormand)**, who is sure that her precious boy is going to be corrupted beyond salvation.

That doesn't quite happen, but William's "virgin" eyes do get opened to the rock musicians' freaky reality, and his heart aches with his unrequited love for a lovely groupie named **Penny Lane (Kate Hudson)** who is the main squeeze of the band's lead guitarist, **Russell (Billy Crudup)**.

William starts out as an objective observer, but the band's tour gets so weirdly interesting that he soon gets sucked into the lives of its members, the very thing that his ever-loving mother wanted to protect him against.

With the sure and perceptive touch of somebody who's been there, done that, Crowe conjures up telling images of the band members' life together as a fractured "family."

Even more tellingly, he contrasts this with William's own traditional family values—and, despite the heady, intoxicating importunings of the rock band's lifestyle, Williams' "corny" principles see him through.

In the end, having learned all he can from the rockers (and having taught them a thing or two, for good measure), he firmly decides to leave their "exciting" company—having realized that they don't have a monopoly of life's thrills, to say the least.

As Crowe's movie traces this plot and character arc, it strums a lot of textured riffs in terms of character, music, atmosphere and period touches that keep the proceedings fascinating even while little that's "important" is taking place.

But that's the movie's point: the story here is not on the "page," but in the interstices between words and images. The sequential revelation of the film's recondite meanings is as inveigling as the heady rock lifestyle that the movie so flashily builds up—and ultimately shoots down.

At the film's electric storm center is Fugit's acutely natural portrayal of the callow William, who eventually becomes wise beyond his years. But right up there with him are McDormand's portrayal of William's mother, Hudson's Penny Lane, and Crudup's Russell. They help make "Almost Famous" a completely rewarding viewing experience.

TV treats

ON TUESDAY, March 13 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" stars **Angela Bassett, Whoopi Goldberg** and **Taye Diggs**.

At 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "The Journey of A Fakir" is about a former soldier, **Mahboub**, who with other fakirs goes to Amjer in Rajathan to celebrate the URS festival and commemorate the great Saint **Kawaja**'s death.

On Wednesday, March 14 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "The Killer's Edge" topbills **Wings Hauser** and **Karen Black**. (Replay on March 31 at 5 p.m.).

At 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Sarcelle, Mira Dog" is about a playful Bernese puppy that's trained at Quebec's Mira foundation and becomes a guide dog for 14-year-old **Eric**, who's afflicted with Spina Bifida.

Another dog featured is a border collie named **Sweep. Dick Roper** and Sweep work with perfect synergy while managing sheep, and show off their exceptional partnership at a national sheepdog competition.

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Tue Mar. 13 Jimmy Santos, John Robert Lee
Tuesday's Tambay Time:
SHAOLIN KID AT ANG PARAK

Wed Mar. 14 Vilma Santos, Christopher de Leon
Madamdaming Miyerkules:
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Thu Mar. 15 Andrew E., Dindi Gallardo
Director's Masterpiece:
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'MISS IMA'

Ima Castro takes a break from her hectic theater schedule in "Miss Saigon" to do a special show, "Miss Ima," March 19, 9:30 p.m. at Oh Bar on Quezon Avenue, beside Delta Theater. Joining her is singer-comedian Ate Gay. For tickets, call 524-1622.

'Independent Women' repeat

AS THE lights went out and the music began to play, all eyes were on these two women onstage. Both are first-rate performers and blessed with powerful voices, distinct yet complementing styles.

Regine Velasquez and Jaya shared centerstage on Feb. 10 and 14 to the delight of thousands who came to watch their first-ever back-to-back concert performance.

Regine sang her latest hits, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" and "Tuwing Umuulan," much to the thrill of her fans that night.

As Jaya also delivered her soulful rendition of her original, "Kung Wala Na" and Chaka Khan's, "Through the Fire," which were no doubt a big hit to the crowd.

"Independent Women" was not a showdown of two competing performers but of two different styles that blended well. It was a natural chemistry onstage which made up a perfect musical pair, enough to leave the audience in awe. Enough as well to hold a repeat.

"Independent Women: The Repeat," happens March 17, Saturday, 8 p.m. at Tanghalang Francisco Balagtas (Folk Arts Theater).

The show is under the musical direction of Marc Lopez. The concert also features The Opera on back-up vocals and will be staged by Maxi-Media's resident director, Rico Mortel.

Tickets at P1,200, P800, P600, P400, P200 and P100 are now available at all Ticketworld outlets (891-5610) in major National Bookstore branches, Tower Records and Robinson's Department Store and at Maxi-Media office (813-8999/893-7737).

This show is another production of Maxi-Media International, in cooperation with Sunsilk Nutrient Shampoo, Farlin Baby Care Products and Beam Toothpaste.

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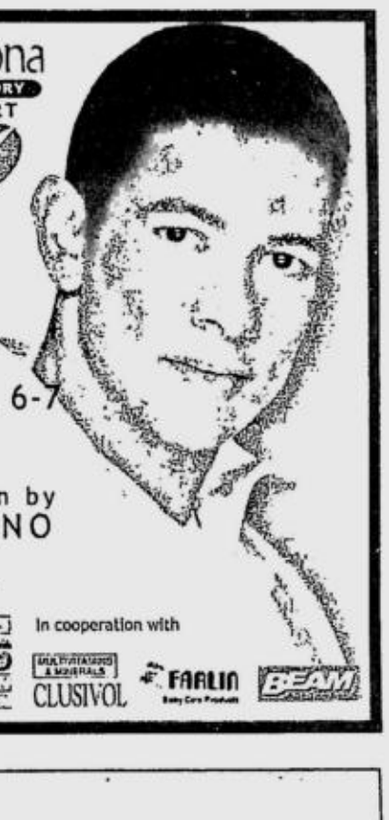

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Prue, Piper and Phoebe confront more potent and sinister evils as their powers increase. Meanwhile, Piper and Leo take their relationship a step further.

STUDIO 23

Mondays at 8:00 pm beginning March 19

Pacey and Joey return from their idyllic summer together, only to face not-so-idyllic realities, old conflicts and new responsibilities.

Tuesdays at 7:30 pm beginning March 20

Three new gorgeous lifeguards make a splash, Mitch' and Neely find themselves single and available again, Craig returns for more action.

Saturdays at 7:30 pm beginning March 24

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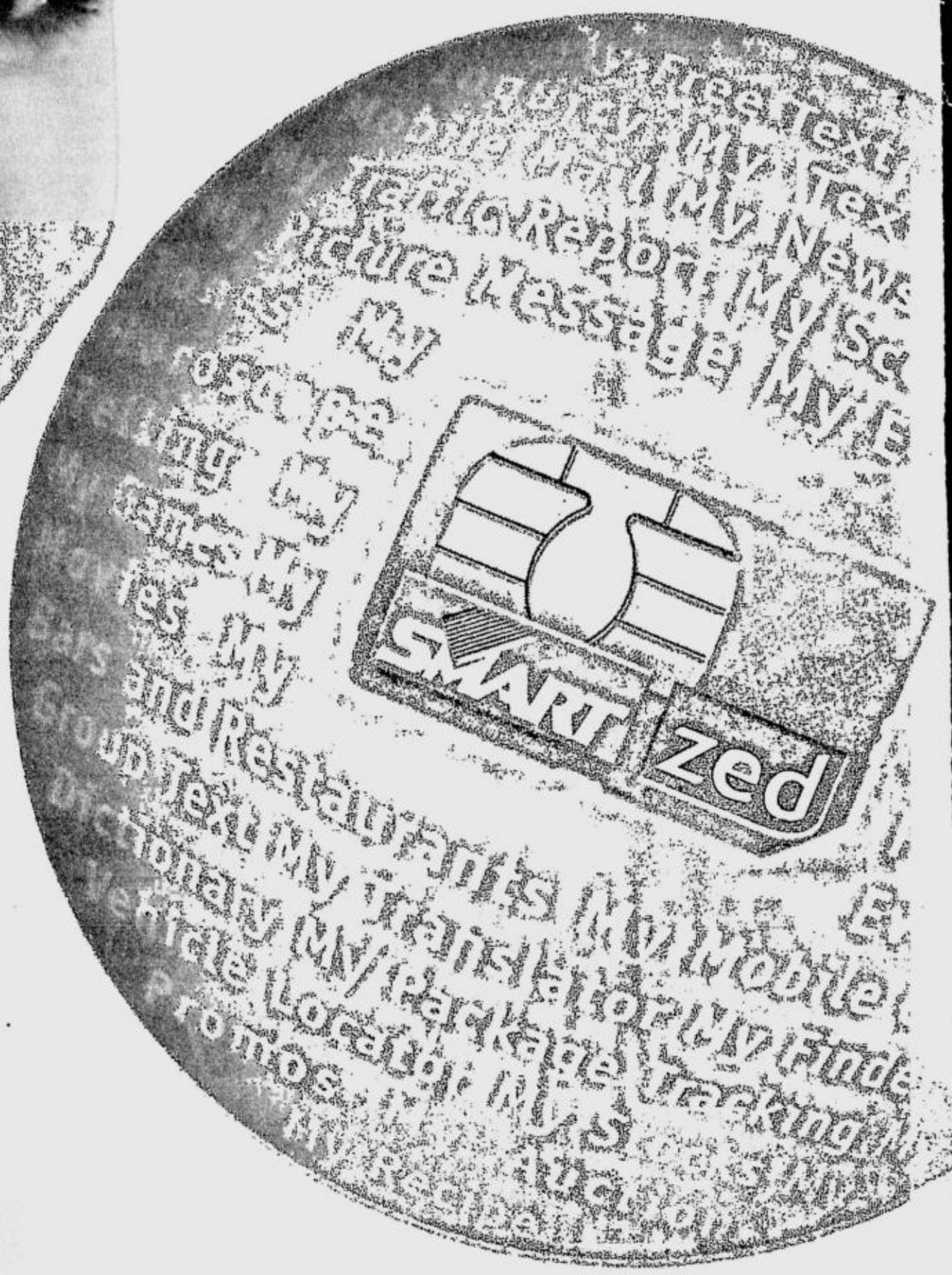

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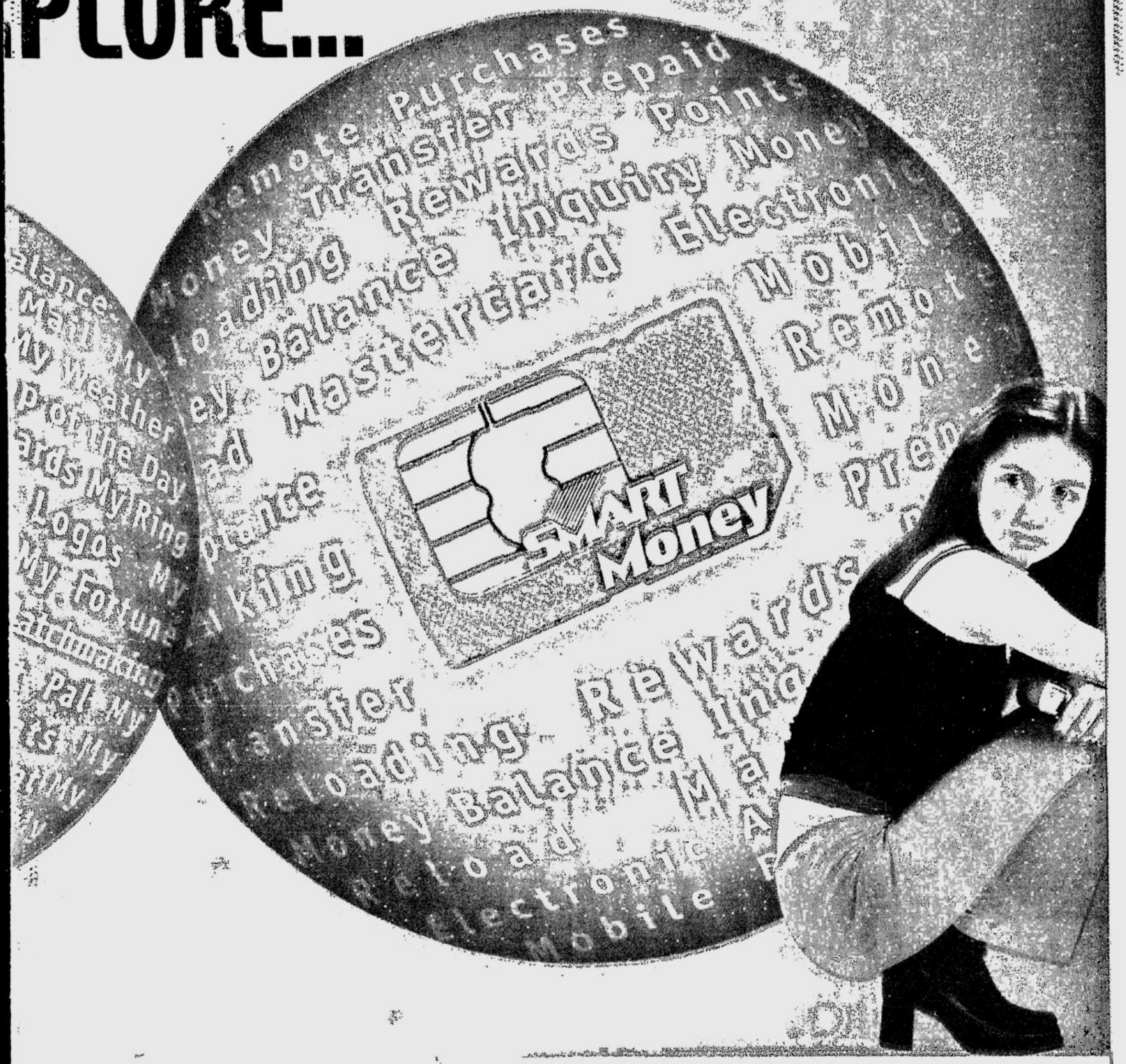

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'Babaeng Putik' preem at UP Film Center

REGAL Entertainment premieres its much-awaited sex-horror film, "Ang Babaeng Putik," 6 p.m. tomorrow, March 12 at the UP Film Center.

The film is the sophomore outing of young director Rico Maria Ilarde, who made his successful debut last year in "Dugo ng Birhen."

"Babaeng Putik" stars Klaudia Koronel and Carlos Morales, with Marcus Madrigal, John Arcilla, Caloy Alde and Joanne Miller.

Carlos plays a young aspiring horror novelist who goes up the boondocks to get rid of his writer's block by exposing himself to the ragged experiences he believes the challenging terrain holds for him.

A few days later, he meets up with a mysterious old man with whom he has a drinking spree. In the old man's drunken stupor, he gives Carlos a strange seed.

The seed grows into a tree bearing a strange, big fruit, a forbidden one, which ripens and rips open to give birth to a naked, voluptuous woman. The flesh-hungry and sex-starved woman is known as "Babaeng Putik."

The whole cast will grace the star-studded premiere of the movie at the UP Film Center.

KORONEL

'Telesine' about ghosts

LORE Reyes, co-director of Peque Gallaga in the hit horror series "Shake, Rattle and Roll," comes up with another nerve-wracking masterpiece, "Mga Multo sa Calle 12," on "GMA Telesine," 7:30 tonight.

The spine-tingling feature revolves around a group of friends who set up a café cum bar in Calle 13, not knowing that the place is haunted by the restless spirit of a Spanish friar and the slaves he oppressed over a hundred years ago.

Wendell Ramos, Bernadette Allyson, Krista Ranillo, Ryan Eigenmann, Monina Bagatsing and James Blanco star as the young people who undergo a terrifying experience they will never forget for the rest of their lives.

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12 DOLBY SURROUND TUHOG

SM CITY MANILA 5239240
1 DOLBY DIGITAL MS. CONGENIALITY
2 DOLBY DIGITAL HANNIBAL
3 DOLBY SURROUND ALMOST FAMOUS
4 DOLBY SURROUND DRACULA 2000
5 DOLBY DIGITAL PAY IT FORWARD
6 DOLBY DIGITAL EX CAST AWAY
7 DOLBY SURROUND WOMAN ON TOP
8 DOLBY SURROUND OBJECT OF OBSESSION
9 DOLBY SURROUND HOSTAGE
10 DOLBY SURROUND FAMILY MAN
11 DOLBY SURROUND KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
12 DOLBY SURROUND LIVE SHOW

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950
1 ULTRA SURROUND LIVE SHOW
2 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND DRACULA 2000
3 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6328401
1 DOLBY DIGITAL HANNIBAL
2 DOLBY SURROUND ALMOST FAMOUS
3 DOLBY DIGITAL DRACULA 2000
4 DTS MS. CONGENIALITY
5 DOLBY SURROUND HOSTAGE
6 DOLBY SURROUND LIVE SHOW
7 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9 DOLBY SURROUND CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10 DOLBY SURROUND CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452
1 DOLBY SURROUND HOSTAGE
2 DOLBY SURROUND KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND CAST AWAY
4 DOLBY SURROUND LIVE SHOW
5 DOLBY SURROUND MS. CONGENIALITY
6 DOLBY SURROUND ALMOST FAMOUS
7 DTS HANNIBAL
8 DOLBY DIGITAL DRACULA 2000
9 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND OBJECT OF OBSESSION
10 DOLBY SURROUND TUSONG TWOSOME
11 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND TUHOG
12 DOLBY SURROUND FAMILY MAN

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782
1 ULTRA SURROUND ALMOST FAMOUS
2 ULTRA SURROUND HANNIBAL
3 DOLBY DIGITAL EX MS. CONGENIALITY
4 ULTRA SURROUND KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
5 ULTRA SURROUND OBJECT OF OBSESSION
6 ULTRA SURROUND TUSONG TWOSOME
7 ULTRA SURROUND LIVE SHOW
8 DOLBY DIGITAL EX DRACULA 2000
9 ULTRA SURROUND CAST AWAY
10 ULTRA SURROUND HOSTAGE

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302
1 ULTRA SURROUND DRACULA 2000
2 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND HOSTAGE
3 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND LIVE SHOW

SM CEBU 2313876
1 DOLBY SURROUND PAY IT FORWARD
2 ULTRA SURROUND WHAT WOMEN WANT
3 ULTRA SURROUND NURSE BETTY
4 ULTRA SURROUND TUSONG TWOSOME
5 ULTRA SURROUND IKA-7 GLORYA
6 ULTRA SURROUND KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
7 DOLBY SURROUND HANNIBAL

SM ILOILO 3209422
1 ULTRA SURROUND WOMAN ON TOP
2 ULTRA SURROUND WHAT WOMEN WANT
3 ULTRA SURROUND TUSONG TWOSOME
4 ULTRA SURROUND IKA-7 GLORYA
5 ULTRA SURROUND KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
6 ULTRA SURROUND PROOF OF LIFE
7 ULTRA SURROUND 102 DALMATIANS
8 ULTRA SURROUND CAST AWAY

SM PAMPANGA 7128015
1 DOLBY DIGITAL EX HANNIBAL
2 DOLBY DIGITAL EX DRACULA 2000
3 DOLBY SURROUND WOMAN ON TOP
4 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND HOSTAGE
5 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND LIVE SHOW
6 DOLBY SURROUND KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

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2 MS. CONGENIALITY
3 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4 DRACULA 2000

GLORIETTA 4 (All Digital Sound)
1 ALMOST FAMOUS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 MS. CONGENIALITY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 MS. CONGENIALITY in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 INNOCENCE (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 CAST AWAY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 DRACULA 2000 in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 HANNIBAL in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
Art Film

GREENBELT
1 LIVE SHOW in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 MS. CONGENIALITY in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 HANNIBAL in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
MARCH 16,17,23,24
4 GARY V. BY REQUEST 2 Onstage
5 LIVE SHOW in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 MS. CONGENIALITY in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 HANNIBAL in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 DRACULA 2000 in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 ALMOST FAMOUS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 LIVE SHOW in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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2 ALMOST FAMOUS
3 MS. CONGENIALITY
4 HANNIBAL
5 MS. CONGENIALITY
6 TIGER LAND
7 CAST AWAY
8 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
9 HOSTAGE
10 LIVE SHOW

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
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1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 BLONDIE
3 LIVE SHOW
4
5
6 Golden Pearl THX

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2 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 LIVE SHOW

Masagana CINEMA
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1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 DRACULA 2000
3 LIVE SHOW

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
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2 HOSTAGE
3 LIVE SHOW
4 MS. CONGENIALITY
5 DRACULA 2000

Metropolis
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2 RESERVE
3 HOSTAGE
4 LIVE SHOW
5 MS. CONGENIALITY
6 HANNIBAL
7 DRACULA 2000
8 OBJECT OF OBSESSION

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6

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4

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1 HOSTAGE
2 CAST AWAY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
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2 LIVE SHOW
3 DEMON GATE

Spring
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A DEMON GATE

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626
1 BLONDIE
3

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 DRACULA 2000
2 OBJECT OF OBSESSION
3 WOMAN ON TOP
4 HOSTAGE
5 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
6 LIVE SHOW
7 HANNIBAL
8 ALMOST FAMOUS
9 MS CONGENIALITY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 LIVE SHOW
3 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4 HOSTAGE
5
6

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 HOSTAGE
2 LIVE SHOW
3 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4 MS. CONGENIALITY
5 LIVE SHOW
6 DRACULA 2000
7 HANNIBAL
8 TUSONG TWOSOME
9 TUHOG

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 MS. CONGENIALITY
2 LIVE SHOW
3 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4 TUSONG TWOSOME
5 HANNIBAL
6 HOSTAGE
7 DRACULA 2000
8 LIVE SHOW

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 HOSTAGE
2 HANNIBAL
3 TUSONG TWOSOME
4 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
5 DRACULA 2000
6 LIVE SHOW
7 MS. CONGENIALITY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 LIVE SHOW

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson LIVE SHOW
Lords BODY SHOT
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Mandaluyong
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2 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 DRACULA 2000
4 MS CONGENIALITY

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 LIVE SHOW

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
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2 DRACULA 2000
3 HOSTAGE
4 LIVE SHOW
5 MS. CONGENIALITY

Divisoria Mall
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2 LIVE SHOW
3 HOSTAGE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 DRACULA 2000

Baclaran LRT Cinema
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2 LIVE SHOW
3 HOSTAGE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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2 LIVE SHOW
3 DRACULA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
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2 LIVE SHOW
3 DRACULA 2000
4 WOMAN ON TOP

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
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2 RESERVE
3 BLONDIE
4 LIVE SHOW

Lianas MovieCity
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3 LIVE SHOW
4 BLONDIE
5 HOSTAGE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 LIVE SHOW
3 DRACULA 2000

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 LIVE SHOW
3 DRACULA 2000

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.03.11
1 CAST AWAY
2 HOSTAGE
3 HANNIBAL

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 DRACULA 2000
2 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 HANNIBAL

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 HOSTAGE
2 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 LIVE SHOW
4 DEMON GATE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2 LIVE SHOW

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 HOSTAGE
2 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 DRACULA 2000

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 FAMILY MAN
2 102 DALMATIANS
3 HOSTAGE
4 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Berma
tel 879.2168
1
2

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 HOSTAGE
2 LIVE SHOW
3 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
4 DRACULA 2000

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 HANNIBAL
2 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 DRACULA 2000
4 WOMAN ON TOP

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	LIVE SHOW
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	DRACULA 2000
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	HANNIBAL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ALMOST FAMOUS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	HOSTAGE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	MS. CONGENIALITY
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
MIRAMAR	GATAS / MY PRIVATE TEACHER
ODEON	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
ODEON-2	MS. CONGENIALITY
ROBEN	HOSTAGE
TANDEM-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	HIGHLANDER / LOST SOUL
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	LIVE SHOW
QUEZON-1	HANIBAL
REMAR	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
REMAR-2	HOSTAGE
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	LIVE SHOW
OCEAN CINEMA-A	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
OCEAN CINEMA-B	BLONDIE
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	MS. CONGENIALITYL
CINEMA-2	ALMOST FAMOUS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
CINEMA-3	LIVE SHOW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
CINEMA-6	TUSONG TWOSOME
CINEMA-7	BLONDIE
CINEMA-8	TUHOG
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ALMOST FAMOUS
CINEMA-12	DRACULA 2000
CINEMA-14	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-15	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
CINEMA-3	BLONDIE
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ALMOST FAMOUS
CINEMA-2	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-3	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-4	DRACULA 2000
CINEMA-5	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-6	MISS CONGENIALITY

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

U2, Eminem grab Grammy awards

MCA Universal made a clean sweep in this year's recently concluded Grammy Awards when two of its best-selling artists garnered the much coveted awards in the music derby.

Irish band U2, who made high sales for their latest album, "All That U Can't Leave Behind," garnered the record of the year and song of the year awards for "Beautiful Day."

The same ditty earned for U2 the rock performance by a duo or group with vocals.

"All That U Can't Leave Behind" soared in the music charts when it became simultaneously number one in 10 countries that included New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Greece, Germany, Canada, Netherlands, Australia, Italy and Norway.

In the 2000 Summer Olympics, "Beautiful Day" was adapted by NBC as the network's theme music.

Creating a great impact in this year's Grammy is Eminem who is undoubtedly the biggest star in rap music. He won in three major categories namely, best rap solo performance for "The Real Slim Shady;" best rap performance by a duo or group for "Forgot About Dr. Dre" and best rap album for "The Marshall Mathers album."

Eminem still clings strongly in the Philippine music charts with his latest track, "Stan," which is about a deranged fan.

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GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER!

BEST PICTURE MUSICAL

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS-Kate Hudson

Must-see film on sex & rock 'n roll

'Almost Famous' Now Showing

In the tradition of Cameron Crowe's Oscar-nominated JERRY MAGUIRE, ALMOST FAMOUS is a coming-of-age tale that is intelligent, well-written and infused with humor in unlikely places.

Inspired by the real-life experiences of the Academy Award nominee writer/director, ALMOST FAMOUS is the story of an unabashed rock 'n roll music fan tasked to write for Rolling Stone magazine in the '70s at age 15. As he joins the band Stillwater on tour, he befriends the band members and their groupies, and grows up, losing his virginity along the way.

ALMOST FAMOUS won a Golden Globe BEST PICTURE Award (Musical/Comedy), and 4 Academy Award nominations for Original Screenplay, Editing, and Supporting Actress for Kate Hudson and Frances McDormand. The movie also stars Billy Crudup, Jason Lee, Patrick Fugit, Anna Paquin and Fairuza Balk.

Embraced by critics, ALMOST FAMOUS is described as "absolutely fabulous," "honest and brilliant," "bighearted and bittersweet," and "filled with splendid performances."

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Innocence

Julia Blake Charles Tingwell Terry Norris

A gentle film that evokes memories of young love that have ripened into full bloom.

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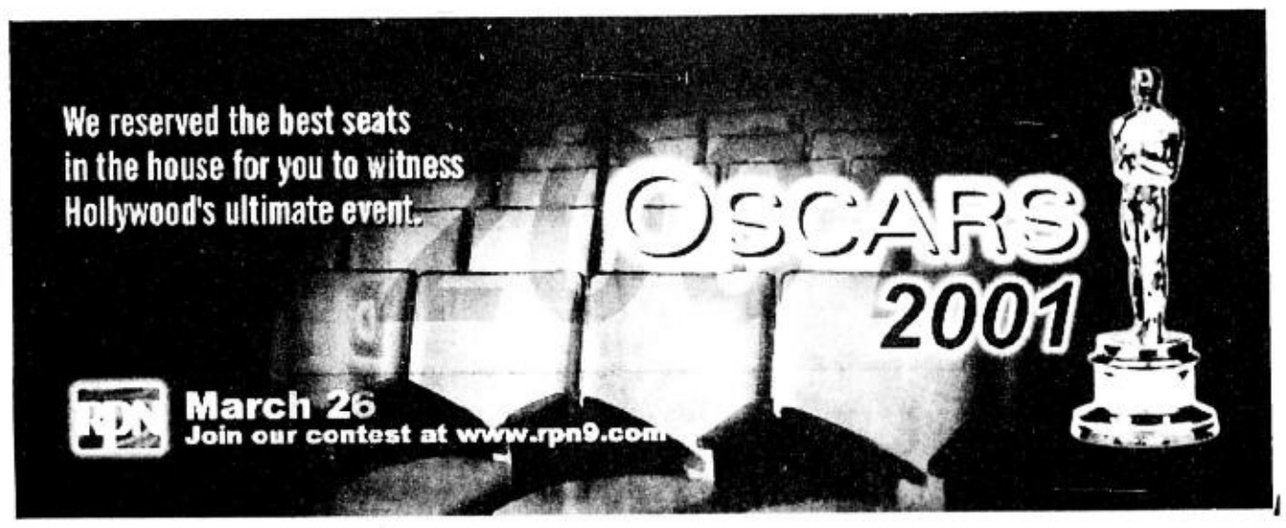

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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ALMOST FAMOUS - R 18 10:40, 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:20	MISS CONGENIALITY - G 11:20, 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00	HANNIBAL - R 18 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20,10:00
DRACULA 2000 - R 18 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	PAY IT FORWARD - P 13 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00	MISS CONGENIALITY - G 10:20, 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15

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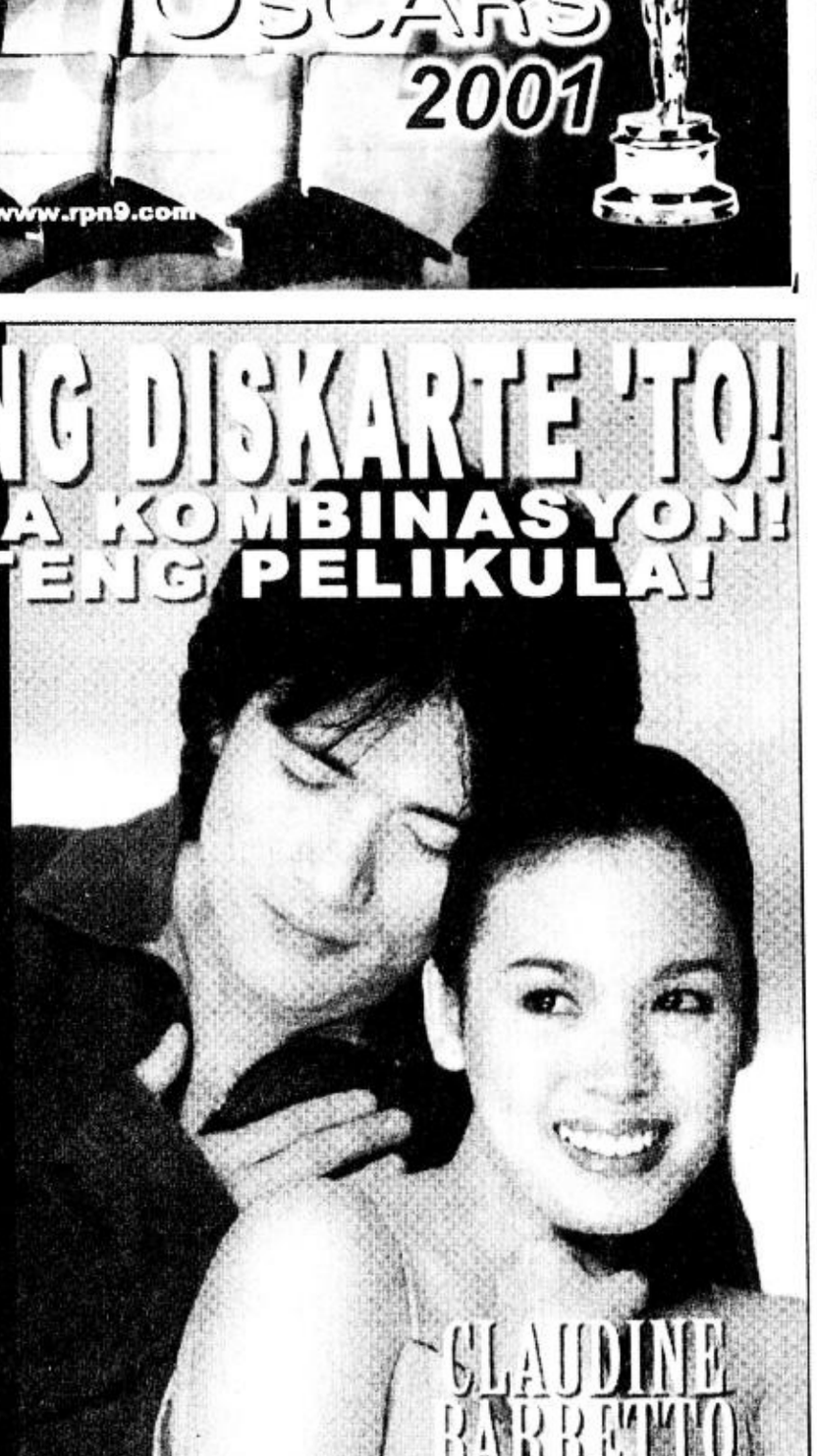

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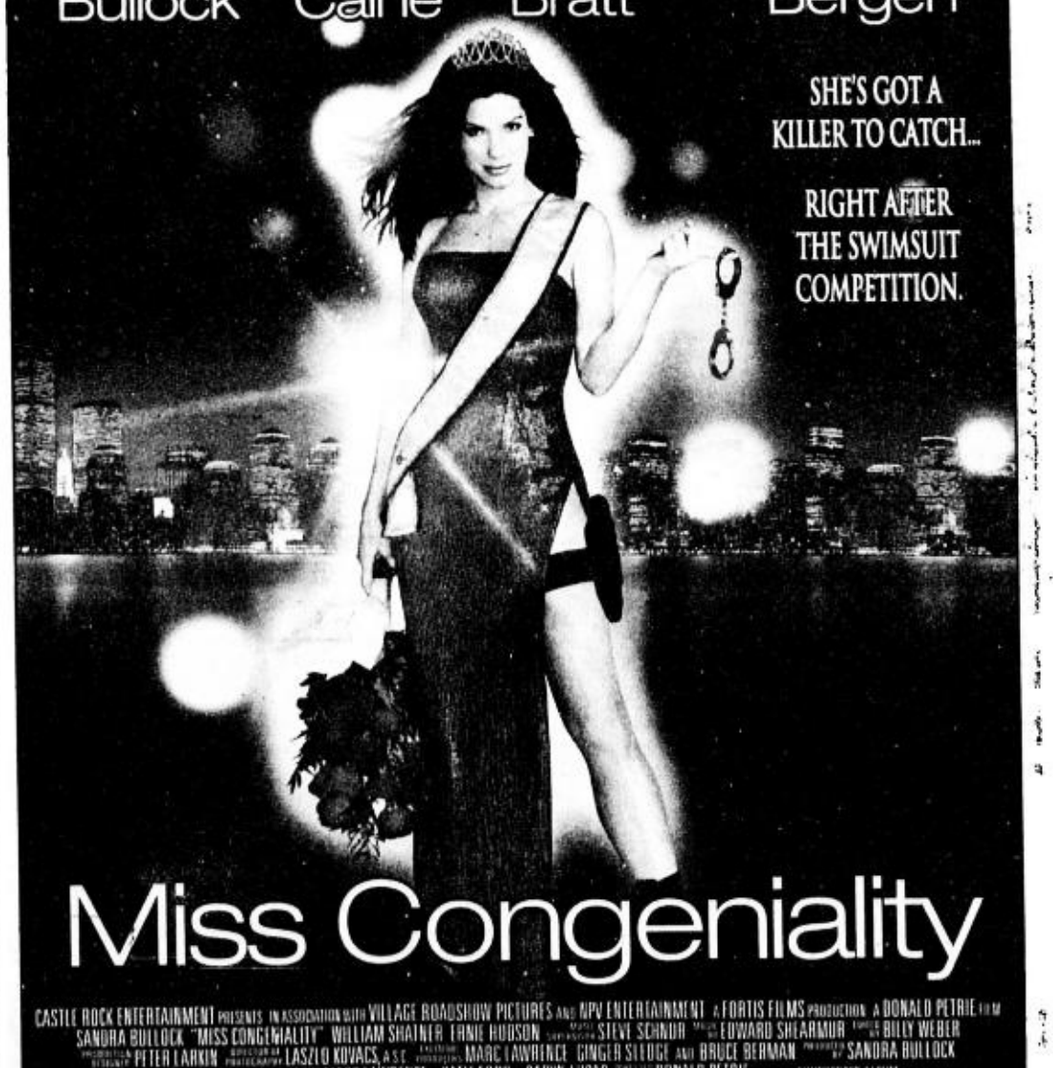

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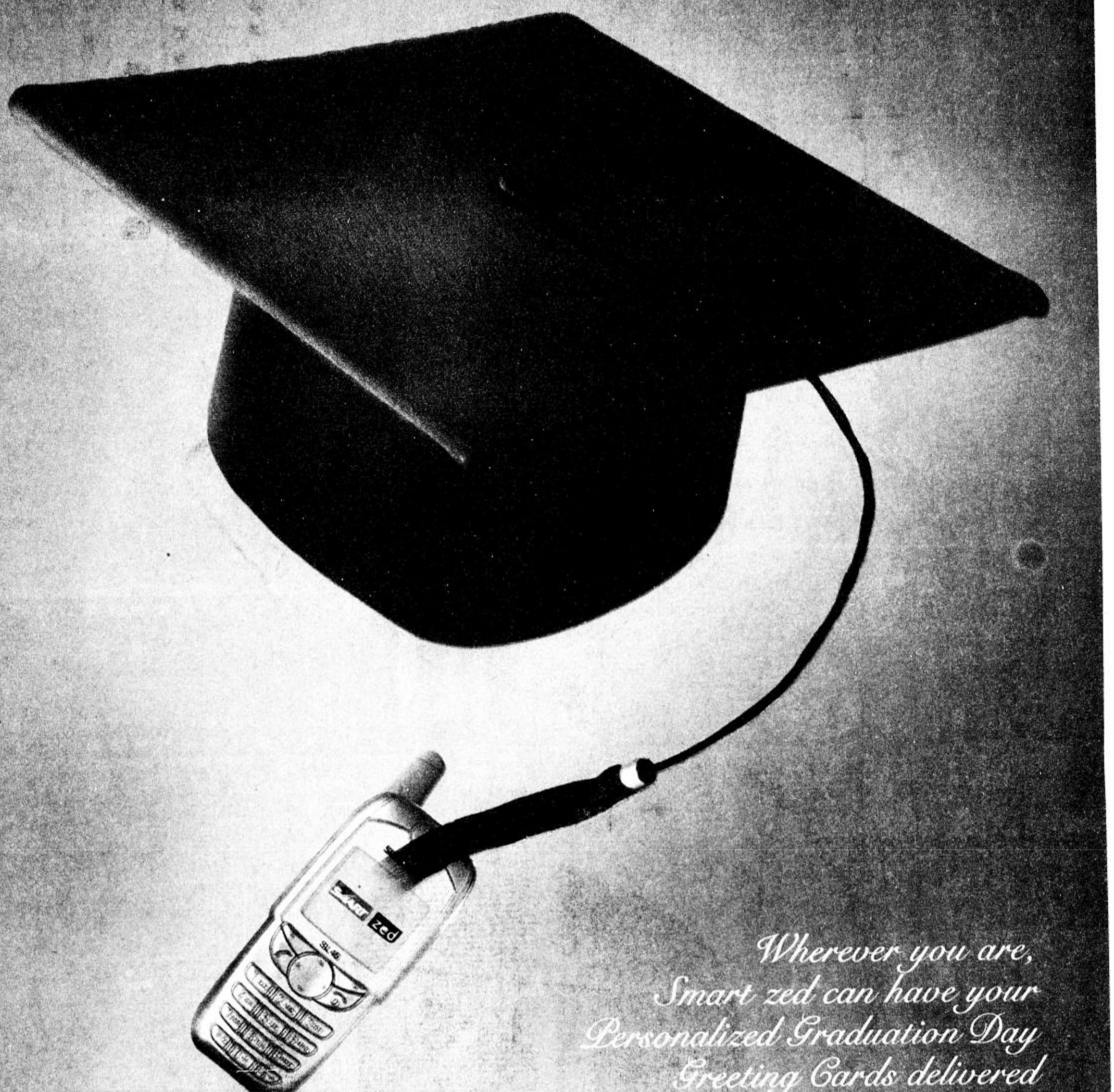

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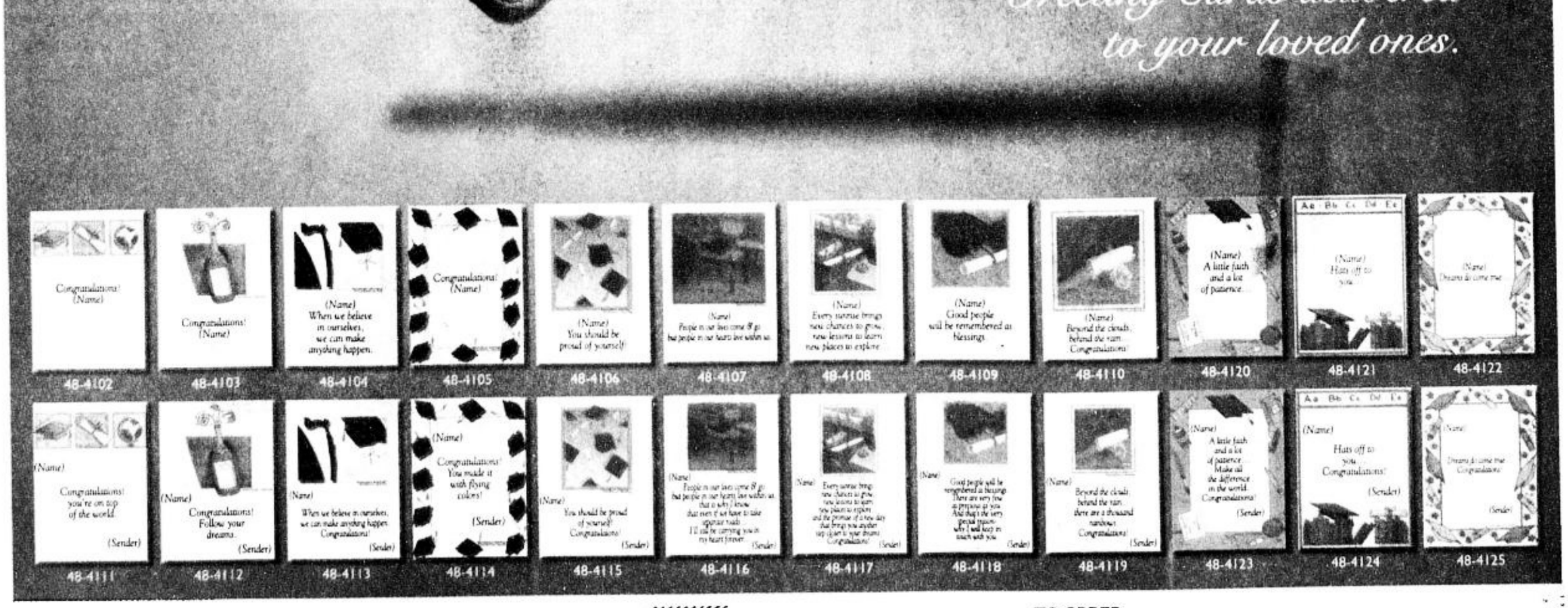

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ASUS S8 Series

Executive musts– black, beige and grey

A CLASSIC-CUT sports jacket is worn over a brown turtleneck rayon dress. The jacket can be removed for evening functions. The sports jacket sells for P2,450 while the dress goes for P1,650.

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

Women have long made the transition from the bedroom to the boardroom, but the name of the game these days is to exude the aura of a hard-nosed businesswoman and at the same time remain feminine.

Efforts to keep in style need not be a deterrent to looking serious and confident.

Katherine Cheng of K & Company at the Rockwell Power Plant says executives should have basic colors in their closet like black, gray and beige with fashionable pastel colors like pink for some occasions.

Cheng also suggests keeping the lines simple and conservative to easily mix and match the clothes. A jacket of a suit, for instance, can be removed to show a sleeveless dress for the evening functions.

With clothes becoming more expensive, it is wise to invest in clothes that are suitable for breakfast meetings to an after-dinner function.

Cheng suggests that skirts be kept at knee length for maximum comfort while the tops should not show too much cleavage.

There are occasions where executives can be more daring but not during those power lunches, cocktails and dinners with visiting chief executives of partner firms.

"For me, the most important rule to remember in corporate dressing is comfort and style. These should go together," Cheng says.

Cheng also emphasizes the use of accessories to bring out the personality of the executive.

EXECUTIVE/ B2

NO wardrobe is complete without a black suit but it need not be just a suit. Shown here is a turtleneck tunic dress (P1,650) paired with pants (P1,250). The dress can be worn by itself while the pants can be worn with other tops.

Price: P1.690M

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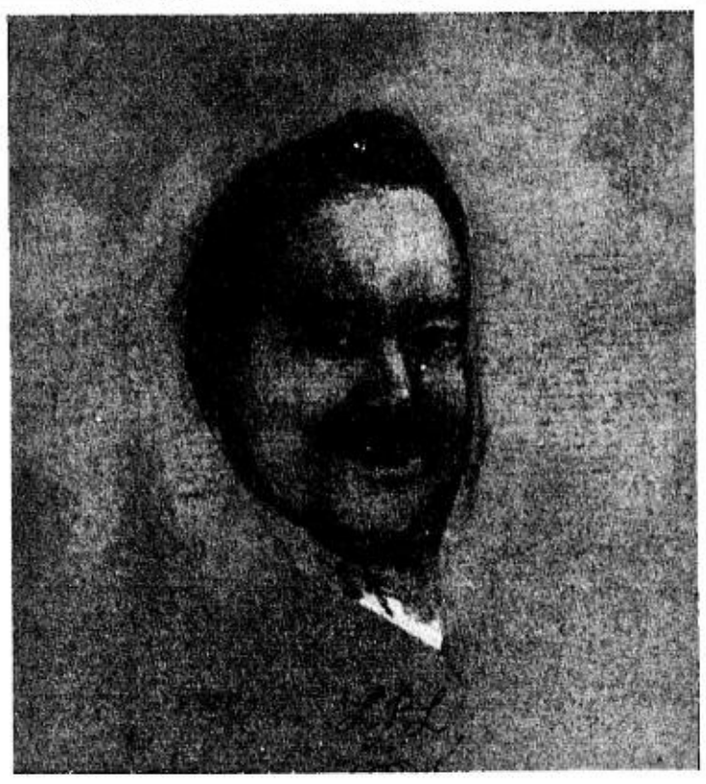
IN YOUR FACE — BY L. P. LEVISTE



CHARGES against deposed President Estrada continue to surface.
The latest to issue their affidavits were Federico Pascual, former president of the Government Service Insurance System, and Carlos Arellano, former president of the Social Security System.
They said they got a call from Estrada to buy shares in gaming firm Belle Corp.
Estrada allegedly got a "commission of over P189 million from the deal which totaled over P400 million.

Fashionmall spurns suitors, may soon go out of style

NEW YORK—Fashionmall.com's chief executive is a hard man to charm. Just ask Ramy El-Batrawi, head of GenesisIntermedia, the most recent suitor for the suddenly popular fashion website.

Fashionmall, which currently has a puny market value of $12.2 million, last month rejected a $52.5 million bid from consumer products marketer GenesisIntermedia Inc., just after it had fended off two other lower offers.

Why all the fawning? New York-based Fashionmall.com Inc. was hardly a high-profile stock even during the height of Internet-mania. The company, which last summer bought the assets of European e-tailing disaster Boo.com, is a fashion website that connects consumers to online retailers, who pay a fee-based on-site traffic.

One reason is that unlike other dotcoms, Fashionmall still has plenty of money in the bank, making it attractive to bidders. The company has about $27 million in cash, or about $3.60 per share double its current share price of $1-5/8, according to Fashionmall's third quarter balance sheet.

"They have been efficient with marketing and cautious with what they are spending, keeping a nice lean mean machine, and certainly that is going to be attractive," Heather Dougherty, an analyst with Web research firm Jupiter Media Metrix Inc.

Fashionmall's sudden popularity also may be of a different, more human, nature-greed. At least some of these bids appear to have been either publicity stunts or attempts to book short-term profits, two industry sources said.

Any suitor for Fashionmall would have to mind its manners because about 46 percent of the shares are owned by CEO and founder Ben Narasin, who did not respond to repeated phone calls for comment.

"Ben Narasin is a difficult person to pin down on selling the company," said Rami El-Batrawi, Genesis' CEO. "We were disappointed and surprised, we thought it was a really good offer. I don't understand the thinking behind it but you can't fight somebody who controls the whole company."

Genesis gets a perk from failed bid

El-Batrawi may be disappointed, but the merger talks appear to have turned into a little boon for Genesis, which says it wanted to hook up Fashionmall with its Centerlinq mall kiosks.

Genesis owned about 7 percent of Fashionmall's shares when it published its bid in a Dec. 29 press release. News of the bid caused a brief rally in Fashionmall's shares and the stock hit its year high of $5 that day.

Genesis had bought its stake at an average price of $2.32 per share, according to regulatory filings. Eleven days after its bid, Genesis started selling those shares. It had sold 38 percent of its stake at an average price of $2.78 a share by Jan 18, according to filings. Those transactions translated into a profit of about $94,000.

On Jan. 22, Genesis said in a press release it now had sold 56 percent of its Fashionmall holdings but that it remained committed to the deal. Genesis has since dumped its entire Fashionmall stake, El-Batrawi said. A Genesis spokesman was unable to say whether Genesis booked a profit or loss on the additional sales, despite repeated requests.

The talks ended on friendly terms Feb. 7, and the companies said they were considering a strategic partnership.

Genesis' bid came on the heels of two lower bids, which market watchers eyed with skepticism. Internet holding company Sitestar Corp. on Oct. 23 offered Fashionmall $3 per share. Fashionmall questioned the validity of the bid, particularly in light of Sitestar's aborted offer to buy beleaguered Web retailer MotherNature.com Inc., for which it cited a "lack of cooperation" from MotherNature.

Fashionmall's and Sitestar's shares rallied more than 20 percent on the day the bid was made. Sitestar, which owned an undisclosed amount of Fashionmall stock when it made its bid, insists its offer was legitimate.

"Our bid was very much for real and if they were still interested and their cash position was comparable to where it was when we made the offer we would jump back in it in a minute," said Clinton Sallee, Sitestar president and CEO. "The problem is you've got a 46-percent stockholder . . . a proxy fight against someone like that is a pretty futile effort."

Narasin's claim that Sitestar's bid was false was "a public posture," Sallee told Reuters.

Then came Narax, a company that bills itself as a "Beverly Hills based M&A firm." Narax, which did not return phone calls seeking comment, offered Fashionmall $3.50 per share on Dec. 28—one day before the Genesis bid. Narasin again said in a statement the bid wasn't legitimate, because Narax had not approached him before trumpeting the offer in a press release.

"I believe that anyone who was truly serious about acquiring us would have wanted to have discussions with us first," Narasin said at the time.

A business model that doesn't fit

Narasin is fighting for Fashionmall's independence, but the firm must change its strategy to survive, analysts say.

Fashionmall's main stumbling blocks are that it doesn't allow shoppers to search across retailers for a specific item; it doesn't help them through the purchase process; and it rarely forms lasting customer relationships, analysts say.

"In many cases intermediaries like Fashionmall.com play a flash-in-the-pan role," said Evie Black Dykema, a senior analyst at Forrester Research. "They help consumers and retailers shake hands, but then after that they are out of the picture because now the consumer knows about the retailer."

And Fashionmall may face competition from more traditional fashion publishers—with well-known brand names—looking to muscle in on their space.

"They positioned the company as this fashion portal, and the opportunity was available," said Jupiter's Dougherty. "Now a lot of the more traditional publishing areas that focus on fashion are increasing their awareness and they could certainly go after the same market, and they have relationships with the advertisers Fashionmall is going after."

Fashionmall's best chance for survival may be teaming up with a well-known name to provide back-end retail functions.

"For Fashionmall their best opportunity would be to work with a branded content provider, and handle the back-end functions that assure the provider that the products will actually be delivered," Forrester's Dykema said. "I really can't say they well-prepared to do that." *Reuters*

Executive musts–black, beige and grey

It is wise to invest in clothes that are suitable for both breakfast meetings and after-dinner functions

(From page B1)

The design of the clothes sold at K & Company was inspired by the designs of work clothes abroad which put premium on the simple cut and the quality of the fabric.

She started off as a subcontractor of boutiques such as Sari Sari and Ritratto but decided last year to put up her own company. Her line of clothes, she says, are geared toward women executives on the go who are on the lookout for clothes with quality workmanship.

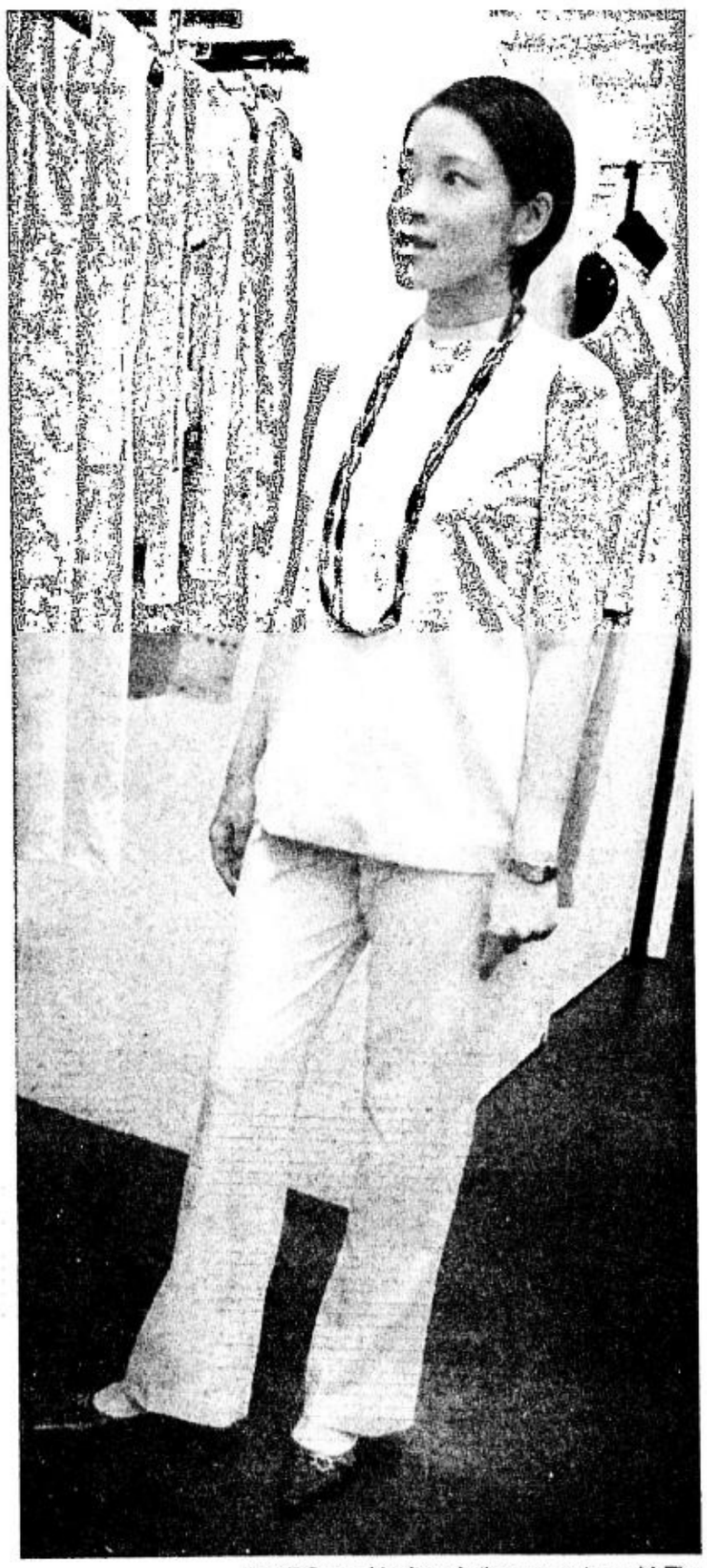
SundayBiz features here some of her designs that work well with female executives.

EVERY executive should have the basic shift dress that is appropriate from morning until evening. K & Company's shift dress in cotton stretch Lycra sells for P1,650.

CHENG says necklines should not be too low. The scoop neckline of this matching day dress in viscose and lycra is appropriate. The top costs P1,350 while the matching skirt sells for P1,450. The silk red bag, on the other hand, costs P3,450.

FEMALE executives can experiment with different colors and textures for cocktail parties where the rules on dressing are not too rigid. One possibility is a knitted beige shirt paired with an embroidered linen skirt with fringes.

K & COMPANY emphasizes the use of accessories such as a bag or necklace to bring out the unique personality of the woman executive. Shown here is a silver-gray V neck shantung dress with extended sleeves (P1,950).



PANTS are ubiquitous in the corporate world. The round-neck haltered tunic top (P1,750) and the pants (P1,350) in stretch cotton can be matched with another skirt or top in a complimentary color. Open or closed shoes match these pants suits.

Courting consumer loyalty in a bank amid competition

WITH deregulation opening up the banking sector to intense competition from other financial services providers, banks have become more aggressive in courting the loyalty of their clients. UCPB is among the most aggressive. It has even recast its corporate vision to focus on the customers and has launched an extensive image-building and business development campaigns anchored on customer service. The bank also changed its corporate colors adopting the more friendly and vibrant combination of brilliant blue and bright green in lieu of its previous somber gold and green. The single-minded approach seems to be working well for the bank.

In a recent survey, UCPB customers say that the bank is making headway toward attaining its vision of becoming the most admired financial services group in the country. Since launching its campaigns two and a half years ago, UCPB has been closely monitoring clients' perception to gauge results.

Of the nearly 10,000 UCPB customers who responded to the survey, some 70 percent says that the bank offers a wide range of products and services that suit their needs, that the bank offers competitive rates and charges, and that the bank provides the conveniences of a one-stop financial services supermarket. These three service factors have been identified as the key elements for the bank to achieve its vision.

The survey was conducted by UCPB's customer relations center, a unit that was organized for the sole purpose of keeping track of service gaps and customer satisfaction levels.

The survey showed that customers' satisfaction with their banking experience with UCPB has improved with 70 percent saying that the quality of UCPB's customer service is better than their other bank's. On a five-point rating scale, customers gave UCPB a 4.28 overall rating in 2000, up from the 4.25 rating in the previous year.

UCPB vice president and marketing division head Rosario Tan attributes the improvement in customer satisfaction and perception of UCPB to the added convenience that customers are beginning to enjoy as a result of the expansion in the bank's delivery systems and the adoption of a customer-centric approach to product development.

Tan says the customer-centric approach, in which a new product or service is developed to address a specific need of a specific market segment has led to the bank being able to launch new offerings that were warmly received by the intended target market.

A good example, she says, is the Jose Rizal Club, which is the first deposit-based privilege club for elderly depositors. The club offers benefits that are clearly intended for depositors who are 55 years of age or older such as free annual physical examination, free accidental death and disablement insurance and a no-queue privilege when they go to the bank to transact.

Tan says that since the offering was introduced a little over a year ago, it has attracted about 1,000 members and close to P200 million in deposits.

Tan cites as another example the UCPB Group's bancassurance program in which the branch personnel assist customers in getting appropriate insurance coverage by referring them to insurance companies affiliated with the bank where they can get preferential treatment.

As of yearend, Tan says that 85 percent of the bank's clients uses the services of the affiliated insurance companies as opposed to 30 percent prior to the launch of the program.

"It would seem that our customers are reacting favorably to the initiatives because they actually see and experience the effects of our initiatives—they appreciate the added value we create for them," Tan says.

Tan emphasizes that over the past two and a half years, even while business activities in the banking sector have slowed down, UCPB kept on investing to widen customers' access to the bank's services as well as to create a pleasant environment for them to transact their business.

Tan says that during the period, UCPB relocated 17 of its branches to more accessible sites, and renovated 39 other branches and work areas of head office units that directly interface with customers. The 85 new ATM sites opened during the same period processed more than one million transactions last year alone, which goes to show how useful our investments have been to our customers, Tan says.

UCPB is launching soon a multi-channel electronic facility called UCPB Connect that will allow its customers to perform banking transactions via their personal computer, their WAP-equipped cellular phones and personal digital assistants.

"The whole idea is to give our customers choices so they can decide when, how and where they want to transact their banking business, and then for us to deliver to them a consistent, predictable level of service in whatever channel our customers choose," Tan says.

TOP leaders of the business community like PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan, Planters Development Bank head Jesus Tambunting meet with the British Business Association.

RP-British business leaders meet

BRITISH Ambassador Alan Collins, together with members of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and the British Business Association (BBA), met recently to explore ways in which the business sector can contribute further for social development and conflict prevention.

PBSP, which has been operating in the country for more than 30 years, is a group of prominent members of the business community. Its present chair is Manuel V. Pangilinan, chief executive officer of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT).

Pangilinan discussed the role of PBSP and welcomed the discussion, recognizing that it was the first time an embassy in the Philippines had organized such a meeting.

The BBA, chaired by Leslie Stokes of Inchcape Zuellig, made presentations about development projects in the Philippines run by the British business community. Derek Fisher, CEO of British Gas, talked about the unique partnership of the British Embassy, BG and their NGO partner Save the Children Fund to help the abused and exploited children in the Philippines.

Ambassador Collins explained that for years, the UK has been keen to encourage corporate social responsibility. He mentioned that there are now units and programs in several British government departments and that the UK now has a minister for corporate social responsibility.

Collins explained that the Global Citizenship Unit in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is working with British embassies all over the world to encourage more companies to act as responsible corporate citizens and spread best practice among them.

"The UK and the Philippines have a shared interest in encouraging socially responsible business. In both our countries there is increasing awareness of corporate social responsibilities—business policies that take account of human rights, labor standards, the environment and strengthening relationships with the communities in which business operates," Collins said.

"We have excellent strands to pursue here," Collins said, talking about areas of which the two organizations can look into partnerships.

One area that will be explored is the possibility of collaboration on conflict prevention projects in Mindanao between the British Embassy, the Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum, the PBSP, and the BBA and local organizations.

Among those who attended are Jesus Tambunting of Planters Bank, HSBC CEO Paul Lawrence, Tina Monzon-Palma of ABS-CBN Foundation, Derek Fisher of British Gas and Shell CEO Oscar Reyes.

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Firms should take lead in easing garbage woes

GARBAGE is one of Metro Manila's most pressing problem today, aside from the economy. Whereas the economy is slowly recovering after the installation of a new president, our garbage is still mounting. This is attributed to the absence of adequate landfills in the country.

The average Filipino generates about two to three kilos of garbage daily. Multiply that with the number of people in a household then per city or municipality, and you have a staggering 5,000 tons of garbage generated daily in Metro Manila alone. Only a measly 27 percent of it is actually recovered. Without collection, garbage quickly piles up into mountains. It is a sorry sight to see uncollected garbage spilling into half of the streets, causing considerable traffic because only a portion of the streets are passable. Think of the detrimental effects all that garbage has on people's health as armies of flies and worms find likely breeding grounds.

While the landfill issue is still being resolved, we need to look for solutions. We may be faced with very limited alternatives, but there is one which is practical, doable and even profitable, and that is recycling. Recycling can have a great potential, especially when practiced collectively.

Recovery centers

In its pursuit of minimizing the environmental impact of its packaging in line with its environmental stewardship, Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) has been on a recycling mode for the past years. It vigorously promoted the recycling of aluminum cans, and now PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles.

CCBPI engaged the services of Now Trading Concepts represented by Chingbee Lim to manage the recovery centers set up for the retrieval of PET bottles and aluminum cans. The project is still in its infancy stage, but it is picking up as consumers discover that those empty PET bottles and aluminum cans are redeemable.

There are 13 recovery centers within selected outlets of Tropical Hut Supermart, Walter Mart and Liana's Supermart. These centers are open on Saturdays and Sundays from 12 noon to 6 p.m. to redeem empty Coca-Cola PET bottles and aluminum cans. The rescue value of each bottle or can is 50 centavos.

EMPTY Coke containers are redeemed at P0.50 each

With this, consumers soon realize that those containers are valuable. In the process, they learn the importance of recycling as they begin to understand why environmentally responsible people and groups would go to such length to recover them.

Why PET?

Because of its lightweight and clear material, PET is popularly used to hold myriad consumer and household products. It is a polymer, a kind of plastic, which is coded "1" in the triangular recycling logo used worldwide. The marking, made by the US Society of Plastic Industry, is found at the bottom or side of the container to facilitate its segregation and recycling.

This environment-friendly packaging has the distinction of being the easiest to recycle. It is commonly used for food and beverages, particularly water, carbonated drinks, condiments and sauces, cooking oil, tea, milk, peanut butter, mayonnaise and dressings. It is also used for liquor and beer, detergents, pesticides, shampoo, lotion, gel, egg crates and semiconductors.

Considering its wide use, we can expect a great number of discarded PET containers which can be prevented from unnecessarily finding its way to landfills since PET is recyclable.

PET Recycling Task Force

To heighten awareness for PET packaging, the Department of Science and Technology-Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) and representatives from the private sector involved in PET manufacture and use jointly organized a task force to promote its recycling and expand collection and processing.

The task force is multi-partite involving government, the private sector and nongovernment organizations. It also has the participation of the Metro Manila Development Authority, the office which has the overall supervision of managing garbage.

The Rotary initiative

The Rotary Club is a civic organization which has manifested concern for the environment, so tapping them for a recycling project was no problem. Of the 63 Rotary Clubs in Luzon, 33 are in Bulacan. Marcy Ballesteros, president of the Meycauayan Rotary Club, reports that their organization was chosen as the coordinating club in piloting the PET recycling project.

Their first decision was to divide the 33 clubs into four teams. They then identified collection points where the empties are retrieved. Now Trading Concepts comes to collect these every month and keeps a record of the number of containers collected to determine which team has the biggest collection. After the six-month period, which ends in June, a prize will be awarded to the winning team.

Ballesteros says his club is exerting efforts to encourage other provinces, such as Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya and Cagayan, to initiate the project in their own localities. They organized a forum among other Rotary Clubs in Luzon to introduce the concept of recycling and shared their concept paper and the mechanics of the project. Nueva Vizcaya has already expressed interest in replicating it. Ballesteros' group hopes to see the recycling initiative spread from Bulacan to Batanes.

Abling the disabled

Small entrepreneurs and nongovernment organizations are actually major beneficiaries of such a project. Tahanang Walang Hagdanan (TWH), an association for the handicapped, is deeply involved in PET recycling. They entered into a memorandum of agreement with Marulas Industrial Corp.,

FIRMS/ B8

'Chicken Soup' author says firms need to be more people-oriented

MARK Victor Hansen

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

RE-MAX, a real estate company based in Denver, Colorado, was not even on the list of leading property developers 10 years ago. It had no reputation and it was operating in a highly competitive field.

But now, Re-Max or real estate to the maximum, has gone from nowhere to pole position in the real estate market. The secret? People.

Executives took time and effort to encourage the real estate agents to relate with everyone else to create a group approach to reaching out to the market. Agents were also taught to hone their people skills since real estate is basically about people buying pieces of property from people they like.

Mark Victor Hansen, co-author of the highly successful "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series, tells the INQUIRER in a phone interview that companies in the millennium need more of these people-oriented approach to doing business if they are to survive.

In short, they need a serving of "chicken soup" or a helping of stories about employees, supervisors, stockholders and the public who are affected by their business.

"Every business, whether it is in the sales of jet planes or in manufacturing, is about people and as managers, I always say that they should set goals that are bigger than they are and that they need a group to do it. You cannot do it alone. You need people to do that," Hansen says.

Hansen stresses that managers need to deal more with people these days, more than they ever did. He says people relations have a direct relationship with the bottom line because people who feel good in their jobs work better, thus, produce more.

"There is a need to bring out more of the people stories these days. We should resurrect our stories to create better empathy with people especially in these days when we thought that technology would solve all our problems," Hansen says.

Federal Express, one of the largest companies in the US, is one of the many companies that is trying to hone their relationships with employees. When one of its employees died, for instance, during a drive by shooting, its chair led Fed Ex trucks to the church where the employee was.

"The next thing you know, it was not only Fed Ex trucks that went to the church but also the trucks of the competitors in the business like UPS. In fact, these caused traffic to virtually come to a halt in Memphis. Nobody said anything but everybody got the message of caring," Hansen says.

Hansen tells stories like the one of Fed Ex during his many seminars that take him around the world. He is scheduled to visit the Philippines on March 15 to talk about stretching the human potential, motivating people to maximize natural abilities and to treating people to a heaping portion of love, laughter, hope and inspiration.

His forthcoming seminars in the Philippines are entitled "Living Your Dreams: A Healthy Helping of Chicken Soup For the Soul" and "Dare to Win by Thinking Bigger than You Ever Thought You Could."

Hansen says it is his mission to save lives, fortunes and futures by talking about stories that touch people's lives. He has been speaking for more than 25 years and has been recognized as Outstanding Business Leader of the Year (Northwood University) and Humanitarian of the Year (National Conference for Community and Justice).

The "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series coauthored by Dr. Jack Canfield was the subject of a study by Harvard University which wanted to find out if the books do have an impact on raising revenues.

"The results show that there was a 126-percent increase in productivity in at least one small company included in the study," Hansen says.

He says he likes to attribute the success of the Chicken Soup series on managers to their need to look for ways to develop a closer relationship with people.

"They need it now more than ever because there is more change now, more chaos and turbulence in business," he stresses.

J.Walter Thompson Manila goes on a new journey

MILES Colebrook, group president of JWT International; Frank Eismendi of San Miguel Corporation; Marixi Prieto, chair of Philippine Daily Inquirer and Mrs. Miles Colebrook.

ROBERT Labayen, JWT Philippines' executive creative director; Peter Hughes, regional creative director and Kevin Ramsey, COO, JWT Asia Pacific.

TERRY Emrick of Ford Motor Company, Philippines; Marc Capra of JWT Southeast Asia; Mark Webster of JWT; and Pet Bautista of Kraft Foods International

MARK Webster of JWT Philippines and Miles Colebrook of JWT International.

J. WALTER Thompson Manila, the first ad agency in the Philippines, marked its rebirth with a new company vision and new offices at the prestigious Enterprise Center.

The festivities around the formal opening of the office last Feb. 2 took inspiration from JWT Manila's new vision, "Magical Journeys," which is about exploring and conquering uncharted territories in marketing communications. It is also an inspiration for JWT employees and clients to "become the best that they can be" in a "journey without a finish line."

Certainly, every detail that managing director Mark Webster, executive creative director Robert Labayen and finance director Randi Lorica cooked up revolved around this philosophy.

Never was an office tour presented in such grand spectacle. Guests marveled at the modern design as the Whiplash dancers, in esoteric costumes, enchanted them in each corner. At the final stop, popular singer Lani Misalucha led JWT employees in a rousing rendition of "This Is The Moment" accompanied by live orchestra music arranged by award-winner Jessie Lasatin.

The magical production design was by Butch Garcia and overall direction, Kokoy Jimenez.

The guest list included a who's who in Philippine marketing and Philippine media.

JWT Manila also presented its Malang scholarship for the Fine Arts. Mauro Malang Santos, the master himself, was there to accept it. Regional officers headed by JWT International Group president Miles Colebrook also flew in for the celebration.

The office at the Enterprise Center is JWT's physical symbol of its commitment to the future. Inspired by what they call a "new mission," J. Walter Thompson's "mission crew" has succeeded in their most recent pitches for new business.

PETER Leisker, MD, JWT Adforce; Ambar Brahmachary, president/CEO, JWT Japan; Stuart Neish, regional finance director, Asia Pacific.

RANDI Lorica, JWT finance director; Pet Bautista of Kraft Foods International; Dave Gutman of Ford Motor Company, Philippines; Minda R. Lansang, chair, MindShare Philippines; and Terry Emrick, president of Ford Motor Company, Philippines.

PEPITO Olarte, VP advertising, Philippine Daily Inquirer; Marixi Prieto of the Philippine Daily Inquirer; Mark Webster, managing director of JWT Philippines and wife Connie Webster.

DAVE Gutman of Ford Company, Philippines; Raul Villegas, division head, JWT; Pet Bautista, Kraft Foods International VP and area director, SEA; and Freddie Garcia, president and general manager, ABS-CBN.

TERRY Emrick of Ford Motor Company, Philippines; Marc Capra, chair, JWT Southeast Asia; Mark Webster of JWT Philippines and wife Connie.

BOB Lehmann, EVP, Security Bank Corporation and Jose Nuñez, president, Security Diners.

Group that aims to develop the youth enjoys events marketing support

A GROUP that aims to instill in children the virtues of discipline, teamwork, camaraderie, trust, independence and a healthy respect for the environment via outdoor activities is relying on corporate sponsors who have found such activity cost effective, and good for promoting brand awareness and their corporate image, while contributing to an environment-friendly event and the development of responsible youth.

The Summer Nature and Arts

SNACK or the Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids holds a yearly activity for kids ages 7 to 13 on a limited enrolment of 35 participants, at the Taal Lake Yacht Club, in Batangas.

Its supporters this year are Zest-o Corp., Pure Foods; Standard Insurance which provides group insurance; goods from Habagat Outdoor Equipment, Coleman, Diwa, Guess Kids that are used in the camp; and media support from Joey @ 92.3,105.1 Crossover, 93.9 KC FM, and Chikiting Patrol.

For the second year, Konica Films, distributed by Columbia Global Photo Sales' sponsors a photography contest this year billed "Stop and Smell the Flowers" which gives out cameras for three winners on an environmental theme.

"We have been especially blessed by their support as they make possible additional benefits that help us continue on this yearly effort even if the number of our actual participants is quite small," says SNACK director Bibsy Carballo. "The word of mouth, however, has been tremendously helpful for us, and we'd like to think, for those corporate donors as well."

While admitting that financial returns from such support are very little, Tet del Rosario, product manager of Zest-o Corp. says they are simply after sustaining brand awareness and promoting goodwill. Archie Magpayo, Trade Marketing supervisor for Pure Foods which has supported the camp for the past three years says, "Every time we support an event we expect to own the event—ownership by one of our brands," he says. The Pure Foods Tender Juicy Hotdog is the chosen brand, and last year they even held their own TJ camp which they asked SNACK to supervise.

Another third-timer is Standard Insurance whose president Judes Echauz is an avid sailor. Sailing is one activity SNACK aggressively pushes together with Peter Capotosto, another avid sailor who runs the Taal Lake Yacht Club, venue of the camp, and is commodore of The Manila Yacht Club. Seymour Henry B. Saldavia, head of marketing development for Standard further says, "We believe that investing some resources in the younger generation helps in making better citizens . . . The success of such activities like SNACK is already more than enough returns for us."

Second-timer Coleman Outdoor Equipment's brand manager Aline Lopez says SNACK complements Coleman's objective of developing

CHILDREN are taught discipline, teamwork, camaraderie and trust.

independent and responsible kids. "More importantly, our satisfaction comes from the knowledge that Coleman has been part of an event which created fond memories for these children—memories they will surely look back to year after year as they grow older," she explains.

Coming in for the first time, Guess Kids and Habagat point to the environmental thrust as primary reason for their support. Kaye la Fuente, Guess Kids' marketing manager believes supporting SNACK 2001 would be equivalent to teaching kids to value things that surround them: respect, protect and enjoy nature and the environment.

As a Cebu-based manufacturer of outdoor gear and equipment, Habagat through general manager Joselu Velasquez says "In terms of rewards, the company believes nothing can best describe the result of all these than the sight of satisfied and gratified looks on participants' faces after each outdoor experience and conquest. All these ricochet back to the business as people are challenged and always 'come back for more,' so to speak."

Gilbert Tan, Columbia Global Photo Sales GM, says that making youngsters enjoy photography is one way of helping them express their view on things around them. "Knowing that the kids learned to appreciate photography and start patronizing our products comes in second," he stresses.

SNACK 2001 Secretariat is accepting inquiries at Tel. Nos. 721-0801, 724-1762, 726-7164, email: bibsymcar@pacific.net.ph. Website is www.geocities.com/snackphil

With 100 success tips on hand, you must at least score once

'The 100 Absolutely Unbreakable Laws of Business Success'
Brian Tracy
Berrett-Koehler Publishers Inc., 2000

SEMINARS on how to succeed abound, simply because participants, wanting to "hit it someday," are simply plentiful anytime of the year.

EXECUTIVE READ

Designing and copyrighting success courses, deploying speakers, producing audio and video tapes, and publishing books have become a multimillion-dollar industry in the Americas and Europe—and they find their way in the Philippines—leading to a surfeit of these "how-to-succeed" seminars, books and tapes given in installments.

Two questions pop up: For our shopping list of success tips, why can't we have the equivalent of a "one-stop shop" that offers everything we need? Or, put another way, why can't someone design a "carry-all" package that answers every need and deals with any situation?

One book, "The 100 Absolutely Unbreakable Laws of Business Success," offers itself as a carry-all cart of principles to guide, warn and inspire us to achieve one goal devoutly to be wished: to be a success.

The author, Brian Tracy, renowned motivational speaker, has wisely divided these 100 laws into eight categories: Laws of Life, Success, Business, Leadership, Money, Selling, Negotiating and Time Management. He lumped them in one book, while another author could have produced eight books instead of one.

Tracy presents the laws as if they are, yes, unbreakable natural laws, even giving such an approach a scientific, philosophical and religious basis (how can he go wrong?). He quotes Aristotle to support his contention that "everything happens for a reason, adding that every action, then, has a purpose.

Sir Isaac Newton (who—legend puts it—came upon a great insight when an apple fell and hit his head) is also called in to reinforce the efficacy of laws, enunciating a principle we knew since our high school science class: For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

And he cites the Scriptures, with the King James Version's rhetorical majesty: "Whatever a man soweth, that also shall he reap." The author has gone through all that trouble to enunciate a single point: Success is no accident.

It is doubtful if these laws are as immutable as natural laws that govern earth and stars, but readers surely have the elementary wisdom to gloss over that ambitious claim and proceed to what Tracy wants to say. And sure enough, he makes sense, in the same way that success seminar speakers pass off formulae as products of mathematical equations.

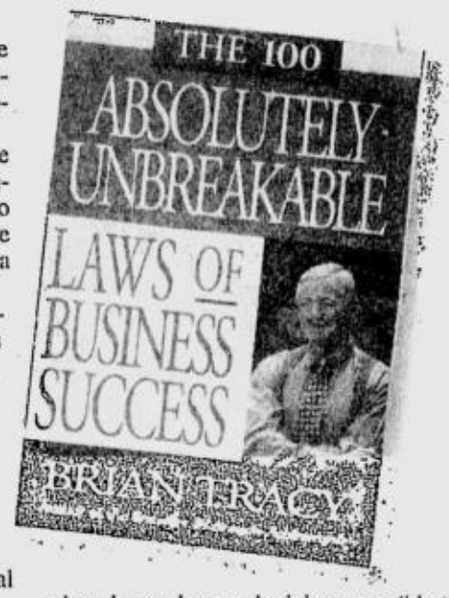
Under the Law of Control, for example, he declares: "By failing to plan, you are planning to fail." He quotes a highly successful entrepreneur producing and distributing audio programs on success (I told you!): "Success is goals, and all else is commentary."

Is Tracy preaching selfishness? No, in fact, his 100 laws throb with the principle of service. His quote of Zig Ziglar on achieving something says it well: "You can have anything you want in life if you just help enough other people to get what they want."

The book author is no believer in the "windfall mentality" or getting lucky. He presents the Law of Applied Effort: "All great: success is preceded by a long period of hard work in a single direction toward a clearly dearly defined purpose." Said like a scientific hypothesis this homespun truth: The harder you work, the luckier you get.

He cites a corollary of the Law of Forced Efficiency to emphasize the need to test your limits: "Only by stretching yourself can you discover how much you are truly capable of. Poet Robert Browning said it better: "A man's reach must exceed his grasp/ Or what's a heaven for."

And yet the author can be laconic with his laws (a rebuke against the verbiage of our legislation), especially



when he endorses decisiveness: "Act boldly and unseen forces will come to your aid. He is speaking from experience, and the truth truly inspires. Decisions, to him, must also be quick, lest one is overtaken by the law of obsolescence, which warns: "Whatever exists is already becoming obsolete."

The book also has a dozen laws on leadership, topped by the Law of Integrity. "Annotating" such law, the author says: "Integrity lies at the core of leadership at the heart of the leader. Everything you do revolves around the person you really are Inside." the book also has 14 Laws of Selling, highlighted by a principle couched in startling wit: "Nothing happens until a sale takes place."

When you get the shorter end of the stick in a transaction, you can't succeed. That explains why the author includes Laws of Negotiating, beginning with a simple truth: "Everything is negotiable." The Law of Desire is particularly Insightful: "The person who most wants the negotiation to succeed has the least bargaining power." My brod Jun has given this advice long ago with regard to courtship.

By choice, I am no excited reader of "how-to" success books. You show your respect for your reader when you present principles, not methods. This book has done just that—and is thus a refreshing exception. *Feedback: dantemv@I-next.net.*

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SundayBIZ

Elements in the equation of the culture of change

BY MINYONG ORDOÑEZ

IN THE EARLY '60s, management guru Peter Drucker brought up the concept of the future called the Age of Discontinuity.

Drucker was predicting the changes that will drive technologies, economies, and businesses of the next millennium.

The '60s was the decade of the Cold War. It was a period of ideology and nationalism. Conflicting political philosophies dictated the economies of democratic and socialist nations backed by corresponding war artilleries.

A few economic powers, led by the United States, dominated world production and trade.

Many technologies from the advanced countries were proprietary. Technology transfers came with exploitative strings attached.

The capabilities and territories of global companies were clearly demarcated with local country businesses.

The gap between rich and poor countries was a chasm.

In the '60s, the pursuit of peace and stability were values highly sought. They still are.

Drucker's alarm on the discontinuity was an idea ahead of its time. Today, it is a reality.

In the '80s, the computer began to change consumer usage and habits in many ways. Product innovations took virtual quantum leaps, in new media, biotechnology, medicine and telecommunications. Product obsolescence, the strategy of American cars since the '40s pale in comparison with the computer-based breakthroughs coming in quick successions from Silicon Valley.

The quickness and multiple output of technology in the '90s result in upgrading knowledge base, changing careers and lifestyles.

Flexibility

Consider these management tenets that confront board directors and CEOs nowadays: downsizing, re-engineering, empowered teams, total quality management, just in time delivery, flotilla productions. These corporate structures either trigger career dislocation or re-invention. Identity crisis becomes the order of the day for skilled or manual laborers, including specialists.

In marketing, distribution and retail with enormous size and expanse challenged manufacturers by becoming the arbiter of price and inventory of products. In the United States, Wal-marts and K-marts have become brands themselves, able to deliver value added to the consumer by harnessing efficiencies of computerization. The magic of the brand diminishes due to parity.

THE AUTHOR

Manufacturers of global brands resorted to economies of scale in order to compete in the pricing arena both in local and global scales. The consumer continues to be either enlightened or economy-driven.

Consequently, the cost/quality competitiveness forced manufacturers to review their revenue structure, a move that ricochets hitting their business partners and suppliers. The unbundling of services results in corporate moves of deconstruct/construct in order to protect shareholder's value.

Advertising expense is whipped at the tail of the storm. The cumbersome hierarchy of marketing crumbles.

Marketing managers now learn the structure and art of global or regional marketing.

The advertising man in riding the wave of change confronts the difficult task of re-inventing one's self. This is acceptable to some who recognize the value of continuous learning and the viability of multi-skilled status.

To comfort zone dwellers and congealed individuals, the change is a pill hard to swallow, which shouldn't be because the need for innovation lies in everything that advertising can re-design or invent, whether it is content or structure.

Universality

Back in the '50s, the teenagers of the world were homogenized by Rock music and the Levi's get-up. Today, the globalization of business, the use of information technology, and the removal of trade barriers cut across all demographics in all continents.

Homogenization of needs and wants is fast becoming universal.

Young professionals, housewives, children, teenagers, newlyweds and farm families become homogenized consumers, by countries, by continents, by the planet.

Shopping has never been so generic. Many brands have become regional or global. Beautifully architectured malls and supermarts are familiar landmarks all over the world, just like fast-food brands. When you've seen one, you've seen them all. Whatever is left of the distinctive country products are relegated as handcrafted tourists' souvenirs.

Many of today's new products evolve from new technologies and new lifestyles that transcend race and religion. New wants and needs emerge, exemplified by the wired customer.

The laptop or notebook computer has made earth people neighbors socializing or doing business across the fence.

If poverty can be systematically wiped out all over the world, man's dream for equality and dignity will be fulfilled.

Humanity

The last element in the equation in the culture of change is a paradox. The element of permanence.

Permanence is a value only an intellectual and spiritual being can adhere to. It is a quality we can attribute only to a human being.

There are simply things natural to man. The prime examples are The Golden Rule, the longing for peace and happiness, quest for truth, struggle for perfection and yearning for immortality.

Truth and morals are immune to change.

In the field of communication, whether objective information or creative persuasion, we will always deal with a human being, whatever the age of civilization he lives; Pleistocene, Sumerian, Classical, Renaissance, Industrial or Galactic.

When a man is born into this world, he is the only creature around bursting with potentials. He can grow up to be an Einstein, a Picasso, a Francis of Assisi or a Tiger Woods. The puppy can only grow to be a dog to bark like any other dog.

The human culture will always be different from animal culture or a robotic culture.

Only humans are capable of imagination and art.

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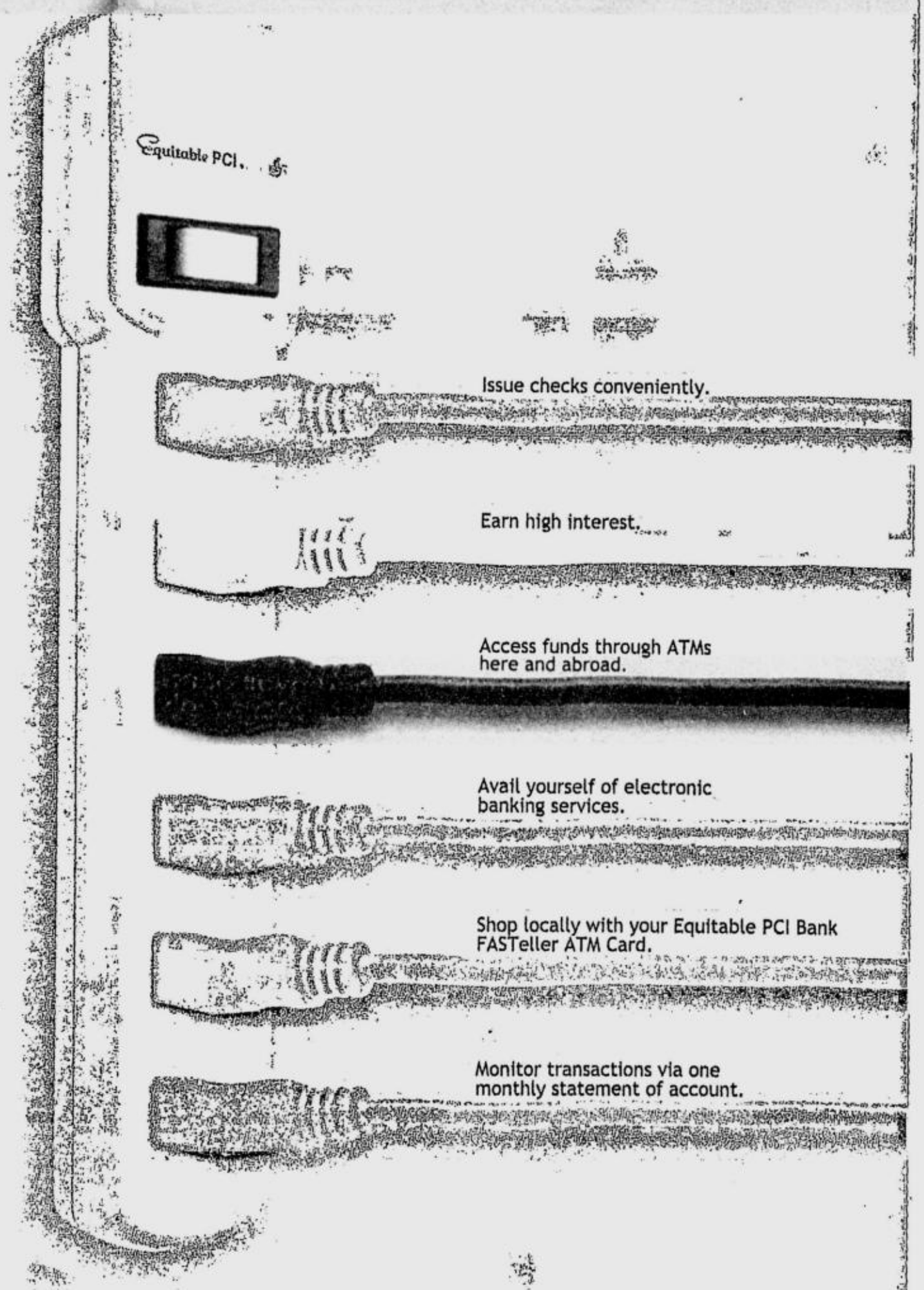

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Firms...

(From page B6)

which provided them with the equipment to grind post-consumer PET into pellets and buys them from TWH. With the income derived from this, TWH is able to fund its projects for the handicapped.

The process involves removing the caps, cleaning the bottles, segregating them according to color and grinding. All these tasks are performed by the handicapped. According to TWH CEO Jess Ducut, PET recycling creates job opportunities for the disabled and make them productive citizens.

The PET Recycling Task Force wants to encourage brokers, consolidators, other exporters and scavengers to get involved in the project.

PET destination

Firms buying ground PET locally export it as raw materials to other countries, which have the technology for recycling it into new containers and other products. Developed countries have been converting PET into polyester to make what they call second-generation products.

You may not know it, but you may be wearing something made out of a recycled PET bottle. That is because PET is recycled in other countries into non-woven garments, such as undergarments for men and women. It seems unbelievable but true that it is also used for making fabric for T-shirts, jackets, sweaters, windbreakers, sleeping bags and upholstery, casual and athletic shoes, fiberfill, cassette tapes, carpets, industrial strappings, bumpers and automotive parts.

Education component

A project's success can be gauged mainly by the acceptance and cooperation it generates. This can be achieved only through education. A vast majority of citizens are ignorant of the values of recycling. It is for this reason that CCBPI has been on the trail of an educational campaign to promote awareness and spur people to do their part in protecting our environment. Alan Pareja, CCBPI's project leader for PET recycling, reveals that the company has come out with brochures as tools for educating consumers and the general public.

A call to all

The environment is everyone's concern. Metro Manila's pyramids of garbage give us a glimpse of the dire state of our environment. It may just be our wake-up call to do something and start to recycle. *Yett Montalvan Aguado*

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Jollibee.

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Recognized by the World Economic Forum as the ***"GLOBAL GROWTH COMPANY,"*** we invite you to join the ranks of highly successful individuals of the **No. 1** food chain. We need high caliber individuals to play very critical role in this growth as:

STORE MANAGER

Responsible for the over-all management of the store to achieve targeted goals and maintain efficiency and effectiveness of store operations. Male or female; not over 35 years old; Bachelor's degree holder, with at least 3 years managerial and/ or 5 years supervisory experience in food service, manufacturing, retail business, or other service-oriented establishments and willing to undergo hands-on training.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

College graduates with at least 1 to 3 years supervisory experience in food service or service-oriented establishments. Fresh graduates with above-average scholastic records are also welcome to apply.

STORE MARKETING OFFICERS

The SMART Officer is responsible for planning and implementation of store marketing projects and activities that will: a) increase store sales and b) make service to our customers more personalized. For the position, we need a college graduate, preferably in Mass Communication, Marketing, Management, or any related discipline. He or she should be creative and outgoing, and should possess good human relations and oral and written communication skills.

STORE ACCOUNTANT

Male or female, Accounting graduates; not over 26 years old. At least one year experience in general accounting and bookkeeping is an advantage. Fresh graduates with good scholastic records may also apply.

Qualified applicants are requested to personally submit comprehensive resumé, recent ID photo and a photocopy of Transcript of Records on March 21, 23, 2001 (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM) to Jollibee Foods Corporation care of:

HR OFFICER/JOLLIBEE FOODS CORPORATION
FUNCTION ROOM 307
SAYAO EXECUTIVE PLAZA HOTEL
454 RIZAL AVENUE
PAGADIAN CITY

SIEMENS

First Gas Power Corporation placed an order with the German company SIEMENS AG, to build a Combined Cycle Power Plant, the San Lorenzo Plant, with approximately 500 MW in Santa Rita, Batangas City adjacent to the existing 1000 MW Plant.

For the operation and maintenance of the new Plant, Siemens Power Operations Inc., the operator of the Power Stations, is inviting qualified applicants for the following positions to join an already existing young and dynamic team of professionals:

OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

SHIFT CHARGE ENGINEERS

Responsible for the safe and efficient operation of the power plant

- Licensed Mechanical or Electrical Engineer
- Knowledge in Gas/Steam Turbine and/or Boiler Operation, will be an advantage
- Minimum of 10 years experience in plant operation, preferably power plants
- Computer literate

OPERATIONS CONTROLLERS

Responsible for the operation and control of boilers, gas and steam turbines and associated auxiliaries on a shift basis.

- Licensed Mechanical or Electrical Engineer
- Knowledge in Gas/Steam Turbine and/or Boiler Operation, will be an advantage
- Minimum of 5 years experience in plant operation, preferably power plants.

OPERATIONS TECHNICIANS

Responsible for operating, monitoring and maintaining operation equipment in the field on a shift basis.

- Graduated in Mechanical Engineering
- Minimum 3 years experience in operation and maintenance of mechanical equipment

MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL - TECHNICIANS

MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS

Responsible for maintaining the full range of station main and auxiliary plant of heavy rotating gas and steam turbines, boilers, pumps, valves, etc.

- Graduated in Mechanical Engineering
- Minimum 5 years experience in maintenance of mechanical equipment, preferably power plants

ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

Responsible for maintaining the full range of the electrical equipment within the power plant under the supervision of the Electrical Engineer.

- Graduated in Electrical Engineering
- Minimum 5 years experience in maintaining low/medium/high voltage plant equipment

C&I MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

Responsible for providing support to the Maintenance Engineer and maintaining of the whole scope of the control and instrumentation equipment of the power plant.

- Graduated in Electronics Engineering
- Minimum 5 years experience with control and instrumentation systems, PLC, DCS

We are looking for mature individuals who possess the ability to work independently as well as in a team and who are ready to accept the challenge of a demanding project.

Candidates with lower technical qualifications than required in this advertisement but with extensive practical working experience will be seriously considered. Residents of Batangas will be preferred.

In order to cope with the tasks and be able to follow the training programs provided, applicants must be fluent in English.

We offer a competitive remuneration package including fringe benefits, which will commensurate with qualification and experience.

Please forward your application and a detailed resume including present and expected salary, contact telephone number and a recent passport-sized photograph to .

Siemens Power Operations, Inc.
The Human Resource Supervisor
Sta. Rita, Batangas City 4200

WRIGLEY PHILIPPINES INC.

Makers of the leading chewing gum products, a world-class multi-national consumer manufacturing company is in need of a

KEY ACCOUNTS SPECIALIST/DISTRIBUTOR SPECIALIST ASSOCIATE

with the following qualifications

- male or female
- below 27 years old
- college graduate (preferably business course)
- key account/distributor experience preferred
- computer literate (MS Office Word, Excel, Powerpoint) and lotus email is preferred
- driving skills
- willing to be assigned in Visayas or Mindanao

Wrigley Philippines Inc. offers a competitive remuneration, benefit package and a five-day work week. If you fit the above qualifications, we invite you to send your resumé immediately with your transcript of records and one passport size picture to:

People, Learning & Development Department
Wrigley Philippines Inc.
P.O. Box No. 1857 MCPO
1258 Makati City

or email your application to **rmorelos@wrigley.com**

Please note: We shall call only qualified applicants for exams and interview.

CEBU INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

is in need of the following professionals for School Year 2001-2002 starting August 01, 2001.

1) MS/HS Principal
2) Curriculum Director/I.B. Coordinator
3) High School Teachers with field of specialization in Mathematics, English, Psychology, Computer, German, Spanish, French
4) Elementary Teachers in Grade 1, 2 and 5
5) Pre-School Teacher

Qualification requirement:

B.S. Degree related to the position
PRC License to teach

Newly qualified or experienced teacher may apply. International Baccalaureate experience is preferred, but not essential, for the high school positions.

Suitably qualified teachers are invited to send their application letter to the Superintendent, Cebu International School, P.O. Box 735, Cebu City or e-mail markb@mozcom.com. A comprehensive resumé, Transcript of Records and passport-sized colored photograph are required during personal interview.

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Our Company is a branch of **ASIA-PACIFIC** of U.S. based multinational corporation and belongs to the Top 700 Corporations. We need **DYNAMIC PERSONNEL** for our Makati Office and branches in Luzon.

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- With or without experience
- College education is an advantage but not a requirement
- Conversant in English and Filipino language
- Attractive compensation plus local and international trips awaits qualified applicants

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106 Esteban Street
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MTB Enterprises
3rd Rm. 310, Plaza Garcia Building
Dolores, San Fernando
Pampanga

RCK Enterprises
Camanan Treve
Commercial Complex Unit I-B
Bucal Calamba, Laguna

RCJ Enterprises
Wilson Uy Building
Rivera Street District II
Cauayan, Isabela
Look for: Mr. Bobby de Leon/ Mr. John Flores

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HANDICRAFT DESIGNERS

- With extensive training/experience in designing high quality novelty and Christmas decorative products
- Opportunity to travel abroad
- High salary package
- Graduate in Fine Arts or art related courses

*Interested party may contact Mr. Fred Berchtold on **March 17, 2001** only thru Tel.# (02) 4007351-61. Please bring your curriculum vitaé and a possible sample artwork during interview.*

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ONE (1) PRODUCTION MANAGER

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If you would like more information about our facility please write your request to the following person. **Mr. Lew Gibson, RN, St. Vincent Charity Hospital, 2351 E. 22cd Street, Cleveland, OH 44115, United States of America.** If you have computer access you may direct your request for information to: *Lewis.Gibson@ Healhealthcare.com.* For further information you may also wish to visit our web site at http://www.SVCH.net.

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(ALL AREAS)

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- Fluent in English and Pilipino

Please submit resumé with photo at:
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2. Male, 21-30 years old
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ONE (1) MARKETING / SALES REPRESENTATIVE
QUALIFICATIONS:
1. Graduate of technical courses preferably Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Food Technology etc.
2. Preferably female, 22-30 years old
3. Minimum one-year experience in technical Sales and Marketing
4. Good in written and oral communication

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Apply personally starting March 12, 2001 at:
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6/F Cuenar Building, 198 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City

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Applications and interviews will be regarded as confidential.

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(1) ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

- Must be a CPA.
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Look for: **MR. SANTI FABRONERO**

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ANNOUNCEMENT

We are informing all members of Subic Bay Golf and Country Club to settle their membership dues as soon as possible. Failure to settle back dues will be cause for delinquency, therefore membership will be temporarily suspended until such time that they settle their respective obligations.

Payment can be made at SBGCC Manila office at 2805 28th Flr. Summit I, 530 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City or SBGCC Subic office at 6900 Binictican Rd., Subic Bay Freeport Zone

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **SMK ELECTRONICS (PHILS.) CORP.** with address at **Lot C-4 Phase 1, M.A. Roxas Highway, Clark Premiere Industrial Park, Clarkfield, Pampanga** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **New Export Producer of Touch Panel Glass** at a capacity of **2.197 million pieces per year** and with plant site at **Clark Premiere Industrial Park, Inc., CSEZ, Clarkfield, Pampanga** has been officially accepted on **07 March 2001** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 7th day of March 2001.

(Sgd.) **C.O. ANGELES**
Director
Legal Services Department

(PDI – March 11, 2001)

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COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids for the supply and delivery of election supplies and forms in connection with the May 14, 2001 National and Local Elections shall be received at the Session Hall, Commission on Elections, Postigo Street, Intramuros, Manila, on March 15, 2001 at 9:30 o'clock in the morning for supplies and March 16, 2001 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon for forms, at which place, date and time, said sealed bids shall be opened in the presence of the representatives of the Commission on Elections, participating bidders and the public. Bid documents and specifications may be obtained from the Supply Officer V, Property Division, during regular office hours, beginning March 10, 2001.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on March 13, 2001, 10:00 a.m. at the Session Hall, Commission on Elections, Intramuros, Manila.

Bids shall be accompanied by a Bidder's Bond equivalent to ten *per centum* (10%) of the offer, bid, tender or quotation, in the form of a cash or manager's check/cashier's check payable to the "Commission on Elections".

Only printers, suppliers and manufacturers pre-qualified under the new pre-qualification process shall be allowed to participate in the public bidding.

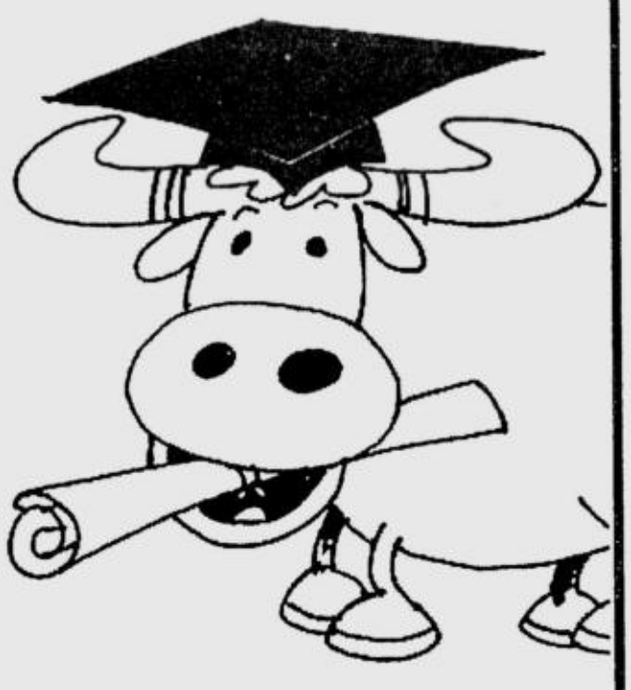
The Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any defect thereon or to accept only bids which are most advantageous to the government.

March 7, 2001

(Sgd.) **RALPH C. LANTION**
PBEC Chairman

(PDI–March 11, 2001)

SUCCESS!



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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that Ms. VIDA T. CABRISTANTE whose picture and address appear below has ceased to represent the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company in any capacity whatsoever in view of the termination of her agency contract.

MS. VIDA T. CABRISTANTE
L38 B11 Masagana Street, Katapatan Village, Cabuyao, Laguna

Ms. CABRISTANTE is still at large. A criminal charge of estafa with criminal case no. 96-150596 has been filed and still pending before the RTC-Manila Branch 45.

Please contact Mr. Carmelo Y. Go of the Business Compliance Department, Philamlife at telephone no. 526-9461 for any information pertaining to the whereabouts of Ms. VIDA T. CABRISTANTE.

(PDI – Mar. 11, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

FLORIDA "MEN" AGUILLON DELA CRUZ

This is to inform the public that Mrs. Dela Cruz of Ibabang Wakas, Tayabas, Quezon is no longer connected with the following establishments as of February 21, 2001.

FILBRID LIVESTOCK AGRICULTURAL CORP.
BROADWAY LIVESTOCK AGRICULTURAL CORP.

Any transaction beyond that date entered into by Mrs. Dela Cruz shall no longer be honored by the company.

(PDI – Mar. 11, 2001)

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"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised"
Job 1:21

LEONARDO "SLUGGO" B. ORENDAIN

Joyfully joined his Savior on March 9, 2001 at the age of 62.

His bereaved wife **MARILYN MERCADO**; children **MARGO** and **LARRY GOODLOE**, **DINI** and **LOU MORBILLO**, **MILEN**, **LEAH** and **JACOB LAOENKUE**, **LOREN**, **GIANA** and **PAUL CONNORS**; grandchildren **JULIAN**, **SEAN**, **LACEY**, **JUSTIN** and **JULIA**; brother **FLORENCIO**; sisters **PRESCILLA** and **ARACELI**; mourn his passing away but celebrate his eternal rest with the Lord Jesus.

His earthly remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, March 14, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Eight Death Anniversary
of our Dearly Beloved

Mommy
ATTY. JOSEFINA "JOSIE" SORIANO BILAR

Who died in the Grace of our Lord on March 12, 1993.

Holy Masses shall be offered
on Monday, March 12, 2001
at 6:00 AM, 6:30 AM and 7:30 AM
at the Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church
in Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City.

The family request pious readers
to include "***JOSIE***" in their prayers.

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."
Philippians 1:21

EARL HENRY HORNBOSTEL

President, Crystal Semiconductors, Inc., and Past President, Rotary Club of San Juan & Mandaluyong City.

Was taken up to be with the Lord on March 9, 2001 at the age of 85.

We, his family, children and in-laws, **Karen Hornbostel**, **Jesse** and **Mercedes H. Morgan**, **Richard** and **Johanna H. Buecheler**, **Earl Gerard** and **Julie Hornbostel**, **Constancio** and **Elizabeth H. del Alamo**, **Gary** and **Margaret H. Still**, **Teed** and **Earlene H. Welch** appreciate the condolences, prayers, and good wishes expressed by friends and associates during this time.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City. Cremation will take place on March 18, 2001 immediately after 10:00 AM service.

Our Dearly Beloved
LOURDES MARELLA VILLANUEVA Vda. de BUENAOBRA
of Taal, Batangas

Peacefully joined our Lord on March 10, 2001 at 5:45 a.m. at the age of 87.

Her loving children and children-in-law **Lilia**, **Teresita**, **Rafael** and **Wilma Gonzales**, **Carmen** (†) and **Marcial Limfueco**, **Erlinda** and **Rommel Anonat**, and **Elenita**; brother **Benjamin Villanueva**; 17 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, 12 nephews and nieces and their husbands and wives, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Makati City.

Interment will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the Mass at 9:00 AM.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28

Bryan Macagba Zuckor, 14

was killed for no reason at the age of fourteen by a schoolmate wielding a gun in Santee, California on March 5, 2001.

He was our sweet son, brother, grandson, greatgrandson, nephew and cousin.

Dra. Crispina Lorenzana Macagba, Rufi & Vicky Macagba, Peter (†) & Lillian Toundjis, Alfredo & Florence Tadiar, Leo & Josie Agustin, Lem & Gena Ignacio and Bob & Emma Kaiser

Our Dearly Beloved
FELICIDAD P. CHUA

peacefully joined our Lord on March 7, 2001 at the age of 75.

Her loving children and in-laws **Vic** and **Violeta**, **Willy** and **Mely**, **Henry** and **Cora**, **Anafe** and **Recto**, **David** and **Edna**, **Jake** and **Cristy**, **Herve** and **Normie**; grandchildren; great grandchildren; brothers and sisters; relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her residence at East Poblacion, Calasiao, Pangasinan.

Interment will be on March 17, 2001 Saturday at Calasiao Cemetery following the 7:00 AM Mass at St. Peter and St. Paul Parish Church, Calasiao, Pangasinan.

PATRICIO L. LUCERO
of Tagudin, Ilocos Sur and Puerto Princesa City

Passed away on March 6, 2001 at the age of 67.

His bereaved wife **Nora**; children **Dan** and **Connie**, **Dave** and **Carol**, **Joyce** and **Jun**, **Mae**, **Dante** and **Marlene** and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Funeraria Sampaton, Puerto Princesa City.

Interment will be on March 14, 2001.

ENGR. VIRGILIO E. ALAGAR
Bacoor, Cavite
28 January 1935 – 08 March 2001

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 66.

His bereaved wife, **Josefina Magsino Alagar**, children: **Cesar & Araceli**, **Avegail & Ruth Corazon**, **Gil & Marjerie**, grandchildren: **Cedric**, **Rosh**, **Rei**, **Aaron**, **Nicole** and **Joyce**, father-in-law, **Emilio L. Magsino**, all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their family residence at 0181 Alhambra cor. Celestino, Nlog 2, Bacoor, Cavite.

Interment will be on Tuesday, 13 March 2001 at 3:00 p.m. at the Eternity Memorial Park in Bacoor, Cavite.

The Board of Directors
of
LORMA MEDICAL CENTER, LORMA COLLEGE, LORMA FOUNDATION, RN & CL MACAGBA REALTY INC.
mourns with its President
Dr. Rufino L. Macagba, Jr.
on the shocking and heartrending death of his grandson

Bryan Macagba Zuckor, 14

who perished in the school shooting incident in Santee, California on March 5, 2001.

Our prayers go to the bereaved family of the boy, his mother Michelle Macagba, sister Rebecca, brother Jeremy, grandmother Dr. Victoria Reyes Macagba, aunt Dr. Carol Lynn Macagba-Briens, uncles Rufino Macagba III, Jonathan Macagba and great grandmother, Dra. Crispina Lorenzana Macagba

CHONA STA. ROMANA-NARCISO
12 March 1953 - 25 February 1988

Her son **Victor**; sister and brothers **Neni** and **Elfren**, **Chito** and **Nancy**, **Nelin**; nieces and nephews **Tanya**, **Roel**, **Aina**, **Norman**, **Christopher**, and all those dear to ***Chona*** request your continuing prayers for truth, justice and peace.

Chona will be fondly remembered at the 6:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. celebrations of the Holy Mass tomorrow at the Jesus the Divine Healer Parish, Tahanan Village, Parañaque.

Your support of the Ma. Corazon Lucero Sta. Romana Commemorative Scholarship managed by the St. Scholastica Research and Development Foundation Inc. will be most appreciated.

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die.
John 11:25-26

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Unit S-7 (a=44.99 sqm)
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Pasong Tamo St. Makati City
Unit S- Xb (a=123.65 sqm)
The Gallery Building Amorsolo St. Makati City
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Unit 108 (a=139.40 sqm)
Unit 112 (a=56.20 sqm)
Unit 233 (a=17.50 sqm)
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2231 Molave Building P. Tamo Makati City
Office Space (a=243 sqm)
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6) Res'l H & L- 2-sty. w/ swimming pool and pelota court & garage / #117 Aquarius St. Cinco Hermanos Subd., Calumpang LA-700 FA-413	9,170,000
MAKATI	
7) Res. Condo. – 1 BR, 1 TB / Unit 2-C, 2/F, T-Tower Condo, 5040 P. Burgos corner Calderon Sts. FA-95	1,800,000
8) Res. Condo. – 2 BR, 2 TB / Unit 515 Star Centrum, Gil Puyat Ave corner Malugay St. FA-93.94	3,200,000
LAS PIÑAS	
9) H & L-1 sty, 3 BR, 2 TB w/ parking / L8 B33, Pio Pedrosa St., Vista Grande, BF Resort Village, Pamplona, Las Pinas LA-319 FA-226.7	2,400,000
10) Res'l H & L –3 BR, 2 TB, w/ garage / L 31 B2 VAA Circle, VAA Homes, BF International LA=229 FA=102	1,800,000
PARANAQUE	
11) Res. Lot / Lot 9 Block 25, Bloodstone Street, Severina Diamond Subd., Bgy. San Dionisio LA-238	730,000
12) Res. Lot / Lot 10 Block 25, Bloodstone Street, Severina Diamond Subd., Bgy. San Dionisio LA-251	770,000
13) Res. Lot / Lot 11 Block 25, Bloodstone Street, Severina Diamond Subd., Brgy. San Dionisio LA-244	750,000
CAVITE	
14) Res'l. T'house.2 sty, 2BR, 2TB / L2 B23, Alicante St, Town & Country West, Molino, Bacoor LA – 56 FA-67.57	840,000
15) Res'l. T'house.2 sty, 2BR, 2TB / L4 B23, Alicante St, Town & Country West, Molino, Bacoor LA – 56 FA-67.57	840,000
16) Res'l. T'house. 2sty, 2BR, 2TB / L5 B23, Alicante St, Town & Country West, Molino, Bacoor LA – 56 FA-67.57	840,000
17) Res'l. T'house. 2sty,2BR, 2TB / L6 B23, Alicante St, Town & Country West, Molino, Bacoor LA – 56 FA-67.57	840,000
18) Res'l. T'house. 2sty,2BR, 2TB / L7 B23, Alicante St, Town & Country West, Molino, Bacoor LA – 56 FA-67.57	840,000
CAINTA	
19) H & L -2 door, 2 sty. w/ basement L30 B2 / Rd. Lot 1 Greenland Subdivision, Ph. VII, Cainta LA-150 FA-159	1,345,000
20) T'house – 2 BR, 2 TB / Unit B, 3rd St., Gruar Subdivision, Cainta LA-33.5 FA-60	977,000
21) T'house – 2 BR, 2 TB / Unit C, 3rd St., Gruar Subdivision, Cainta LA-36 FA-60	980,000
22) T'house – 2 BR, 2TB / Unit A, 3rd St., Gruar Subdivision, Cainta LA-69 FA-85	1,150,000
23) T'house – 2 BR, 2TB, w/ attic & garage L6-A B3, 3rd St., Gruar Subdivision LA-95	1,450,000
ANTIPOLO	
24) Res'l T'house. 2-sty w/ 2 BR, 2 TB / L41 B7, Woodland Ave., Palmera Woodland Subd., Bo. Mayamot LA-42 FA-49	495,000
25) Res'l. H&L- 2-sty, 2 BR, 3 TB w/ attic and terrace / #14 Atalanta St., Crestview Subd., Bo. Mayamot LA-120 FA-143	850,000
26) Res. T'house. - 2sty., 2 BR, 1 TB / Lot 4 Blk 4, Voltez V St., Mariz Townhouse, San Jose, Antipolo LA-51 FA-477	485,000
BULACAN	
27) T'house / Unit 10-B, 2 Sty, 2 BR, 1 TB / Teodoraville Homes, Meycauayan LA – 32 FA - 50	570,000
28) T'house / Unit 14-A, 2 Sty, 2 BR, 1 TB / Teodoraville Homes, Meycauayan LA – 32 FA - 50	550,000
29) T'house / Unit 12-A, 2 Sty, 2 BR, 1 TB / Teodoraville Homes, Meycauayan LA – 32 FA –50	542,000
BAGUIO	
30) Res'l. Lot / Lot 9 Blk. 10 Richgate Square II Subd., Camp 7 Kennon Road LA – 360 sqm.	945,000
31) Res'l Lot / Lot 13 Blk. 10 Richgate Square II Subd , Camp 7 Kennon Road LA – 386 sqm.	1,010,000
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36) Ind'l Lot. Lot 2-B-1-A-1 Perfecto Dr Sta Maria Industrial Estate, Bagumbayan (Near Bicutan Exit) LA -2,920	17,546,000
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PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
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O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

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Most Secred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Family

A multifaceted woman

VIRGINIA Perez Davide PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

BY ROWENA C. BURGOS

ON ONE level, Virginia Perez Davide is merely a woman of extra-ordinary courage whose commitment to public service never flagged during 40 years in government office. In another sense, she is a dedicated mother and wife to Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. But on a more transcendent plane, Ms Davide is a hero reborn and filled with creative power. She is unique for she's a living embodiment of volunteerism.

Her soft-spoken manner and unflappable dignity bespeak her background as a public administrator, a devoted educator and a single-minded director of the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA). Her magnetism is palpable, the consequence of her endurance and determination in her fight for sustainable development for the nation. She fires the pride of the PNVSCA staff and touches a deep desire in the psyche of Filipinos for a leader who might rekindle the coalition of development assistance and its target beneficiaries—the marginalized sectors of society.

A wife, mother and public service agency director, Virginia Perez Davide represents the kind of moral leadership we need nowadays

Such yearnings help explain the torrent of emotion that erupted when Ms Davide recently announced her retirement from government work in a quarterly meeting with foreign directors.

"Everyone was surprised and thought that I was just kidding. But in any institution, people do come and go," says the gracious, self-assured woman of 61, who adds that she'll be more visible in church activities and religious organizations, and probably teach high school students in their barangay. "I've decided on my retirement since last November and even if the staff's urging me to wait for four more years, I won't for it's such a long time."

Ms Davide wants to concentrate on what matters most to her—helping raise their nine grandchildren (and the one coming in May) to be stable, intelligent persons and spending more quality time with the Chief Justice. "When I mentioned my retirement, all he said was a very loaded 'It's about time.' I've been vocal about it for the last two years and I should have done it last year but since it was the agency's anniversary last December, I postponed it."

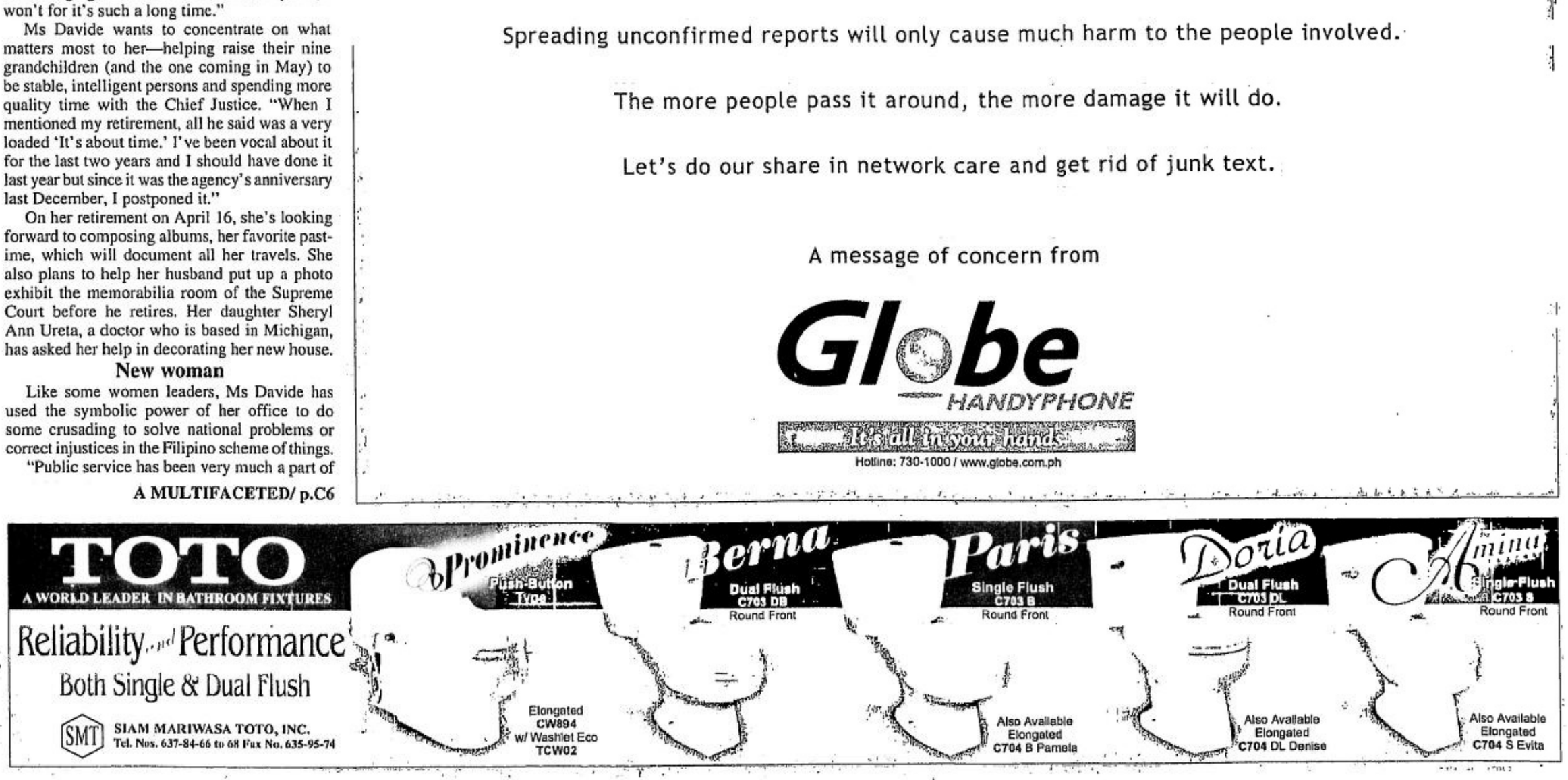
On her retirement on April 16, she's looking forward to composing albums, her favorite pastime, which will document all her travels. She also plans to help her husband put up a photo exhibit the memorabilia room of the Supreme Court before he retires. Her daughter Sheryl Ann Ureta, a doctor who is based in Michigan, has asked her help in decorating her new house.

New woman

Like some women leaders, Ms Davide has used the symbolic power of her office to do some crusading to solve national problems or correct injustices in the Filipino scheme of things.

"Public service has been very much a part of

A MULTIFACETED/ p.C6



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PHILIPPINE Cerebral Palsy Inc. (PCPI) chair Lewis Edwards places a name tag to Don-Don Pagdagdagan as he welcomes him to the blessing of the new Adaptive Learning Center Building, the second building of PCPI. Don-Don has cerebral palsy and attends free computer classes at the center. PCPI is located at Dao Street, San Antonio Village, Makati. Call 895-1786/01, 890-7984 (fax), or e-mail cerebralpalsyinc@yahoo.com.

NEW MAKATI JAYCEES BOARD. The Junior Chamber of Makati, a leadership training organization, recently elected the 2001 board of directors. Seated (from left) Anton Sheker, immediate past president; JC Pepet Macachor, president; Tunkai Huang, VP operations; (standing) Rey Fernandez, director; Arnold Valencia, treasurer; Edmund Conception, director; and Mike Crisologo, VP programs

Dr. Gene Abes

RHEUMATIC FEVER AND OTHER REASONS WHY SORE THROAT SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED

Dr. Gene Abes, a Master of Public Health graduate, is the chairman of the ENT Department of the Philippine General Hospital.

It's easy to dismiss sore throat as something that will eventually go away on its own. And true enough, this does happen in certain cases. However, there is also the danger that, if left untreated, your sore throat can develop into a very serious and even deadly bacterial infection.

WHAT USUALLY HAPPENS TO SORE THROAT LEFT UNTREATED?

If your sore throat is viral in origin, say it came from those same viruses that cause colds, then there is still the possibility that it will eventually clear up in 3-7 days, as long as your immune system is strong enough to fight it.

However, if your sore throat is bacterial in origin, such as strep throat, then without proper antibiotic treatment, it may lead to Rheumatic fever or even Glomerulonephritis.

... if your sore throat is bacterial in origin... it may lead to Rheumatic fever or even Glomerulonephritis.

WHAT IS STREP THROAT?

Virtually all sore throats caused by bacteria are due to streptococcal bacteria, which is what gives "strep throat" its name. Streptococcal infections account for nearly half the cases of pharyngitis (sore throat) associated with a fever.

There is one form of streptococcal bacteria which doctors are most concerned about, especially among children aged 5 to 18 years old. The bacteria is named Group A Beta Hemolytic Streptococcus. This bacteria is usually associated with Rheumatic fever and Glomerulonephritis.

WHAT IS RHEUMATIC FEVER?

Rheumatic fever is an inflammatory disease that can affect many connective tissues of the body – especially those of the heart, joints, brain or skin.

Without prompt treatment of strep throat, the immune system, rather than attacking the invading streptococcal bacteria, may instead attack the body's own tissues – usually the heart valves, and primarily the mitral valves. Thus the biggest danger of having rheumatic fever is that it may cause permanent heart damage.

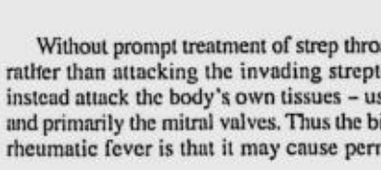
Anyone can get acute rheumatic fever, but it usually occurs in children 5 to 15 years old. The resulting rheumatic heart disease can last for life. Fortunately, the incidence of rheumatic fever is presently low (less than 5%).

WHAT IS GLOMERULONEPHRITIS?

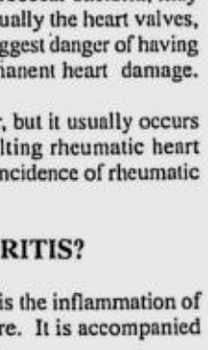
Poststreptococcal glomerulonephritis is the inflammation of the kidney that may lead to kidney failure. It is accompanied by headache and elevated blood pressure.

HOW CAN WE AVOID THESE COMPLICATIONS?

To avoid the complications that may arise from what would appear to be just another case of sore throat, be sure to consult your doctor, especially if your sore throat has lasted more than a week. Have your condition properly diagnosed. If it is bacterial in nature, then your doctor will be able to prescribe the proper antibiotics and give you the right dosage and directions for taking them.

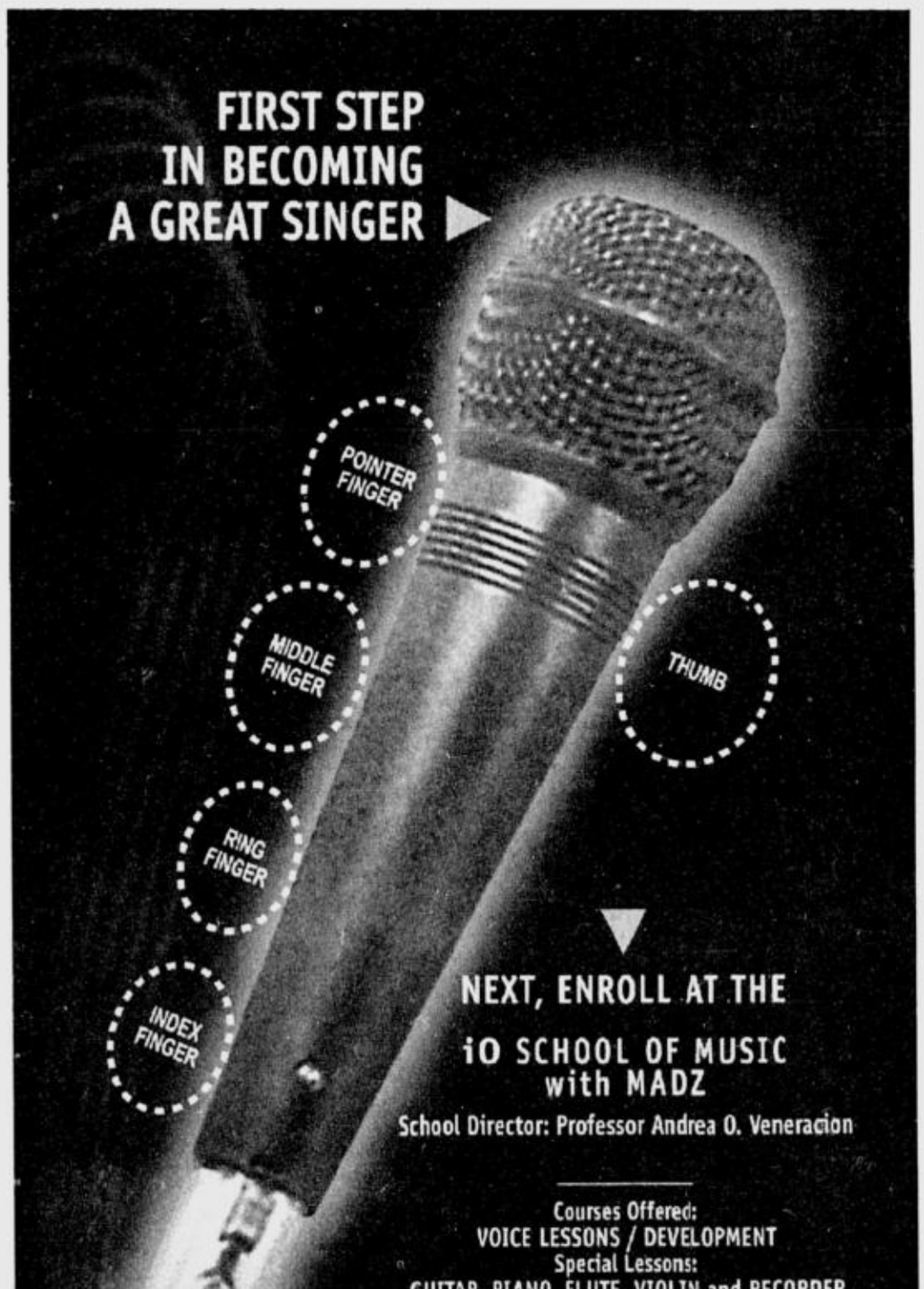


As an additional preventive measure, to reduce the number of bacteria already residing in your throat, you may want to try using oral antiseptics, particularly ones containing hexetidine. This will kill the bacteria and prevent it from further increasing in number.



Leaves bacteria dead.

Next week, Dr. Abes will do an expose on ways of spreading sore throat.



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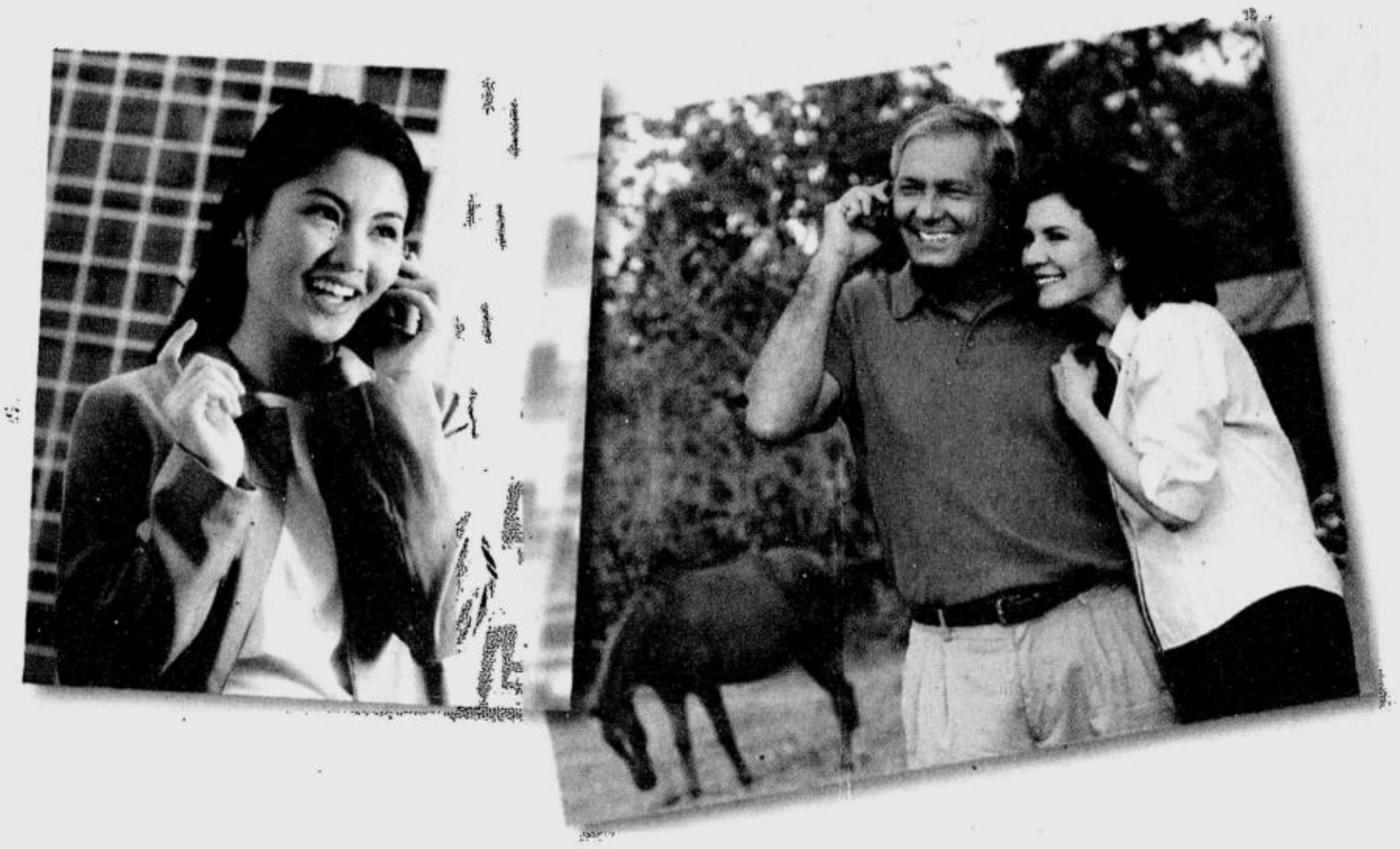

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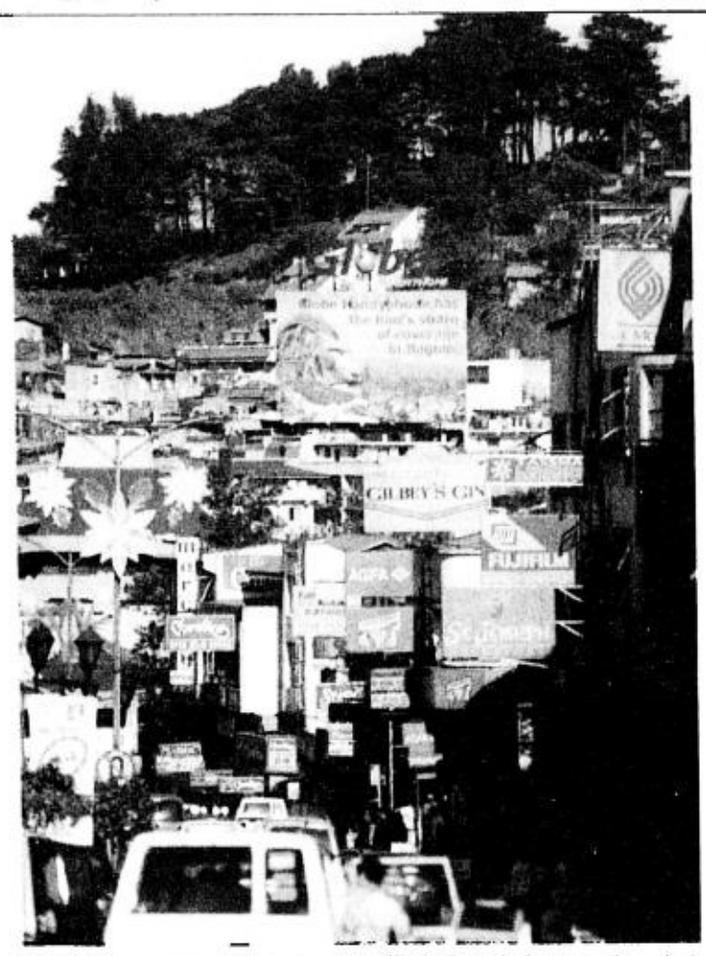


TXT IN THE CITY. Handyphone traffic in Baguio is more than that in Makati, Mandaluyong and Marikina combined.

MAIDENS IN HEAVEN. Up in the highlands, the best high is still a sweet smile.

GenTxt gig powers Baguio highlands high

The coldest season for a long time in the City of Pines witnesses both a flower festival and a flowering of beautiful memories

By Mozart A.T. Pastrano
Photos by Mike Alquinto

IN BAGUIO, romance is always in the air. The interplay of the nippy breeze, the pine-strewn and scented landscape, roller-coaster mountain roads and cozy cafés nibbling by the roadsides makes the heartbeat go crazy with excitement and expectation.

And you are never disappointed. Something always turns up. Or someone. The zany thing is, it's all up to you. For once. Or for now.

When Baguio celebrated the Panagbenga Flower Festival a few days ago, anything goes was the way it went.

Residents and tourists—including bubbly Marian Catedral, who helped start the first Panagbenga—were gripped by the same kind of highlands high. A keen sense of adventure. Of pining. Of making things happen. Wondrous things. Shameless things. Things to relish and relive. Over and over. Again.

What a perfect ending it was, then, when industry leader Globe Telecom, the festival's major corporate sponsor, brought over the legendary Pinoy band The Dawn for a GenTxt street party on Session Road, which was closed to vehicular traffic but open to all sorts of pedestrian traffic. It was indeed a time to make merry.

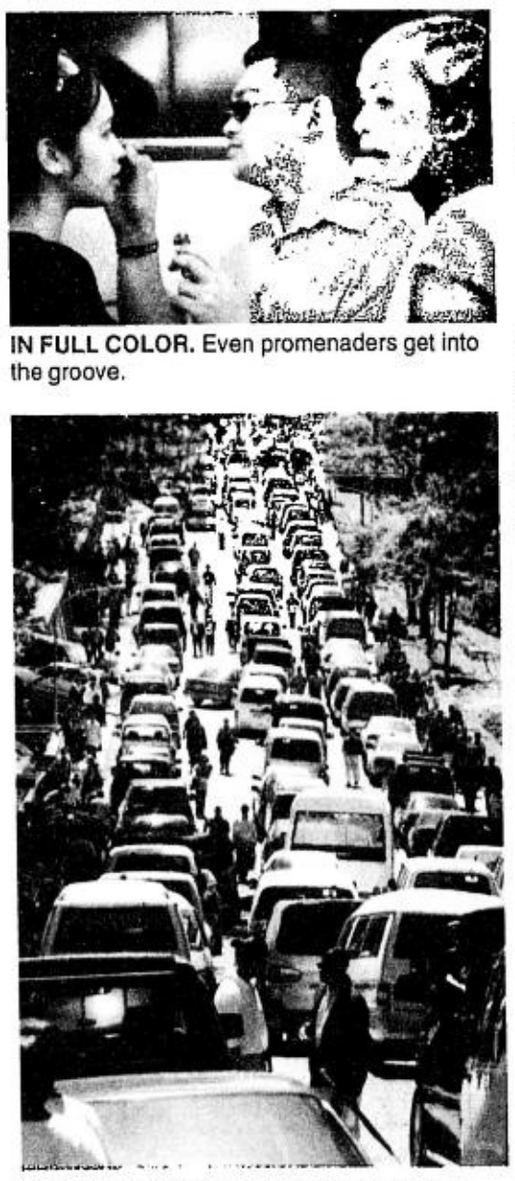
As it happened, it was the coldest season in Baguio in over three years. And yet there we were on the main street partying till kingdom come. Because Baguio is, in a sizzling way, kingdom come.

WHEEL OF FORTUNE. Vrooom and bloom

BODS, BUDS AND BUDDIES. Male bonding at the flower festival

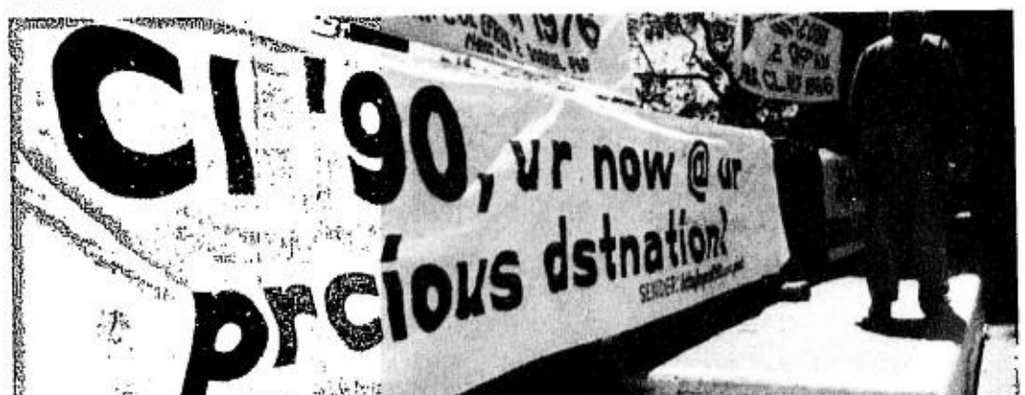
NO KIDDING. "Gather ye rosebuds while ye may..."

BAGUIO IN BLOOM



TOURIST INVASION. All roads lead to the mountain resort during the Panagbenga.

FIESTA FRENZY. Various contingents wow the crowd.



HAIL, HAIL, D GANG'S OL HIR. The Bigkislahi Class of 1990 welcomes mistahs to the annual Philippine Military Academy alumni homecoming, which coincides with the Panagbenga.

AN OFFICER AND A GENTXT MAN. Gen. Honesto Isleta is in full command of his Handyphone.

BLISS AND BLESSING. Celebrating bounty in the highlands

FLOWER POWER. Costing P200,000 each, Panagbenga floats float down Session Road.

Flowers of Baguio highlighted in new book

RACHY Cuna, Ronnie Alejandro, Eduviges Huang and Mike Santos

ALEJANDRO, Pura Suanding-Molintas and Mike Santos

THE WELL-ATTENDED and highly acclaimed Baguio Flower Festival is captured for the first time in a new coffee-table book, "Flowers of Baguio." The 150-page full-color tome was published by Anvil Publishing and National Bookstore with the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation, the Department of Tourism-CAR, province of Benguet, the John Hay Poro Point Development Corp., Mountain Studio and the Baguio Flower Festival organizing committee.

The formal launching was held recently at Camp John Hay in Baguio City with New York-based author Reynaldo G. Alejandro, coauthor Vicente Roman Santos, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and Ms Sonia Roco in attendance. The book was subsequently launched in Davao City, another city of flowers, and in Manila.

The book embodies the color and vitality of Baguio's most-prized possessions: its flowers and its people. In his foreword, Baguio Flower Festival chair lawyer Damaso Bangaoet Jr. talks about the city's floral legacy that "speaks not only of a way of life borne out of the molding of our lowland rook, foreign origins and our highland home. It also captures the parallel evolution of a flower industry that continues to be enriched with each new variety that blooms in our fair city."

"Flowers of Baguio" traces the development of an industry and its influence on the city's cultural and environmental landscape and its people. Also included are chapters on floral diversity, Baguio parks and gardens and arrangements by renowned designer Rachy Cuna and some Baguio-based florists.

The book also includes an essay by well-known writer and former Baguio resident Llita Logarta titled "Gardens in My Mind." Creative direction was by Roberto C. Caballero and Orland Punzalan, while book and cover design were by Helen Uy Punzalan. The stunning pictures were provided by contributing photographers Eduviges Huang, Lito Beltran, Vincent Ramiscal, Dewey Sergio, George Uy and Victor Sison.

A first in local publishing history, the book is part of a series which will include "Flowers of Davao," "Flowers of Southern Tagalog Region," "Flowers of Iloilo and Bacolod" as well as "The Gardens of Alabang and Makati," which will feature floralscapes of well-known artists Rachy Cuna, Tony Padilla and Toni Parsons, among others.

Principal author Reynaldo Alejandro has received praise and acclaim for his many other books such as "La Mesa, Selyo, Pasko!" and "Pasig: River of Life."

AUTHOR Alejandro (in barong) with special guests Baguio Flower Festival Committee Chair Damaso Bangaoet Jr. and Ms Sonia Roco, wife of Education Secretary Raul Roco and Karina Bolasco of Anvil Publishing

STANDING, from left, Christine Laumond, Alejandro, Behing Huang; seated, Anita Magsaysay Ho and Carol Guerrero

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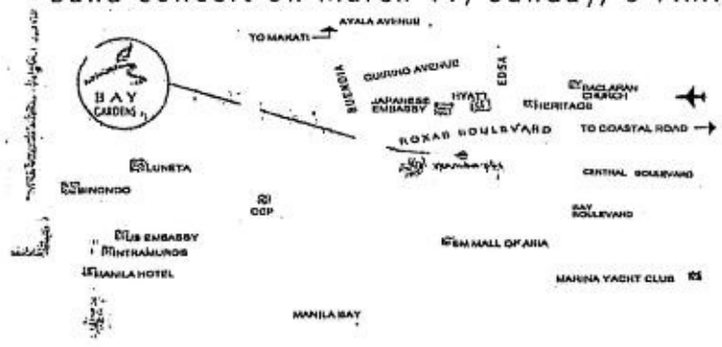

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For Announcement Purposes Only

The root of Filipino women's liberation movements

By Estefania Aldaba-Lim

ONE hundred twelve years ago, a group of young women from my town, Malolos, called on their parish priest to ask his permission if they could put up a night school where they could read and write Spanish like their brothers. They lived in barrio Pariancillo where wealthy Chinese mestizo families congregated. The conditions set, they would pay for the cost of putting up the school, the salary of the teacher and would be chaperoned by their mothers. The *cura paroco*, Padre Felipe Garcia, was upset and said no and promptly lectured them about the role of women, that is, to bear children, cook, take care of the household and pray (*manganak, magluto, magalaga ng pamilya sa bahay at magdasal*).

Undaunted by the rebuff, they sought an audience with the civil governor of Bulacan. He also rejected their plea and again reminded everyone about their feminine duties.

Determined to put up their school, these 21 "Kadalagahan ng Malolos" heard about the forthcoming visit of the newly appointed governor-general from Spain, Don Valeriano Weyler. It was said that the liberal Governor-General Weyler was so enchanted by these young ladies that he readily gave his blessing to the project. Furthermore, as a newcomer, he was not too familiar with the policy of repression and enslavement by the friars (frailocracy).

Among the Filipino and Spanish liberals, the letter of the women to Weyler was received with unbounded joy and admiration. In the February 1889 issue of La Solidaridad, Graciano Lopez Jaena described the letter as a blow to those who would keep the conscience of women enslaved to the friar's ideals.

Most important, in February 1889, upon the urging of his friend Marcelo H. del Pilar (a Bulakenyo), Rizal wrote a letter to the women, congratulating them and, inspired by their example, described the role women should play in the struggle for reform.

All these years, the focus of national celebration has been the letter of Rizal, not the 21 women. Why? Who are they? What did they do? What role did they play during the bloody Malolos Revolution? So we Maloleños organized the Women of Malolos Foundation Inc.

Mission/vision of Malolos Foundation

How does the Foundation propose to honor these women?

- Establish a Museum for the Women of Malolos. Chair: Pita Sexton Tibajia (descendant). Hold annual parades, literary contests, etc.
- Publish a book about the 21 women: who they are, their role in the Propaganda, Revolution, Reform Movement and their family life c/o NCCA. Co-chairs: Dr. Nicanor Tiongson, Prop Tantoco (descendants).
- A committee to enlist all the descendants of the 21 women who will serve as the primary source for the book. Chair: Azucena R. Reyes (descendant)
- Convert historic Malolos as a tourist destination. Chair: Mayor Resty Roque
- Establish a national award for the Most Outstanding Women Achiever who will exemplify the essence of Rizal's letter to the Kadalagahan ng Malolos. Co-chair: president of WOM Foundation and special committee
- Put up a permanent monument to memorialize their role in our history. Chair: Mercia Aquino (descendant)

Happily, this year's 112th anniversary focused on both 21 women and Rizal's letter. The day began with:

- Reenactment of the unveiling ceremonies done on June 30, 1961 (Rizal's 100th birthday), when a plaque was placed as a mariner on the site, Pariancillo, where the 21 women of Malolos held their school. Dr. Helena Z. Benitez, then chair of the National Council for Women, and Lualhati Aldaba-Cojuangco, a Maloleña, then president of the Philippine Women's University Alumnae Association, did the honors of reenacting what they did 40 years ago.
- At 10 a.m., the guests proceeded to the 420-year-old but elegant Casa Real where the Museum for the Women of Malolos is housed. The exhibits consist of fine jewelry; family heirloom of Dr. Pablo Trillana, our *kababayan* chair of the National Historical Institute; period clothes of the descendants of the 21 women including the *ternos* of the mother of Secretary Alberto Romulo, a Maloleña, and antique furniture from the home of Alberta Uitangcoy, the leader of the 21 women of Malolos. In this connection, the museum will expand its exhibits to include eminent women achievers from all of Bulacan.
- At 4 p.m. a grand parade led by more than 3,800 men and women in their colorful *baro't saya was held*. Among them were the descendants of the 21 women of Malolos: Reyes, Tiongson, Tantoco, Tanchangco, Uitangcoy, Villanueva identifying themselves with a banner stating "Lahi Ni..." in colorfully decorated floats.

At this point, we are happy to report that the foundation has already achieved the first three missions. The last three long-term projects are in the preparatory stages.

However, we recognize the important role of our *kababayan*, Dr. Trillana, in fast-tracking all our initial successes. His decision to make the Casa Real Shrine dedicated to the Women of Malolos Museum inspired all of us volunteers to work harder.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

A multifaceted woman

(From page C1)

my career plan. It's the most productive years of my life," says Ms Davide, who initially worked at the provincial government office in Cebu in 1961. Then she transferred to the regional office of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) in 1981, where she became an assistant chief board secretary after four years. Along the way, she received a commendation from the Civil Service Commission in 1982 for her outstanding performance in the Junior Executive and Supervisory Training for Effective Administrative Management. In 1986, she assumed the post of officer-in-charge of the PNVSCA, and after a year, its directorship.

"During those years, I was being enticed to join the private sector, which was more financially rewarding. But I'm better suited to government service" wherein, the PNVSCA director admits, she has been struggling to cope with multiple challenges and at the same time made her heart sing.

Through the years, women's role in government continues to grow. It's not that women are better than men in public life but most women bring different experiences into the public arena. "Volunteerism is the greatest contribution I can give to the public sector. In this techno age, people remain the most important resource. And service to people is what we're promoting at PNVSCA. It's heartening to see faces light up whenever you help them," says Ms Davide.

An English graduate of the University of San Carlos in Cebu City, she then took up a master's degree in public management at the University of Philippines Cebu and a doctorate in Philippine Studies at UP Diliman. Cognizant of the need to invest in young minds, Ms Davide joined the ranks of the academe as a part-time graduate studies lecturer in management courses from 1980 to 1984 at the University of San Jose-Recoletos in Cebu, and from 1981 to 1984 at UP Cebu.

"When I took up public administration, my horizon widened. I learned a lot about good governance, development, dealing with people and responsibilities in a bureaucracy," says Ms Davide, whose intelligence, wit and remarkable breadth of knowledge about a host of subjects are attested to by her family, friends and staff members.

A job like no other

A warm and humorous woman who is completely at ease with her husband and keenly aware of her children's needs, Ms Davide never fails to create a zone of peace and comfort within the house where the Chief Justice can regain his equilibrium and restore his spirit.

When Mr. Davide was still an assemblyman in Cebu, she did the marketing, cooked and entertained a stream of visitors. "But with my hectic schedule, I can't do that as often as before," says Ms Davide, who adds that even last Valentine's Day, they just bought food from a restaurant and celebrated at home.

After attending Mass on Sundays, they indulge on pancakes, burgers and *longganisa* together with their youngest son, Delster Emmanuel, an architect, at McDonald's. "It was our eldest grandchild, Paje, who influenced her *lolo* in eating at this diner. So even without our grandchildren, going to this place has become a part of our weekend routine."

But what she does not share with the Chief Justice is his passion for gardening. "I'm afraid of worms. But I'm fond of plants. In fact, whenever I travel, I buy." She also proudly notes that her husband, who used to collect orchids, is a fine agriculturist. "Every time he comes home from a trip, he goes first to the garden and check on their condition. And he loves to transfer them from one pot to another or other areas."

A strong person who makes up his own mind, the Chief Justice is "confidential when it comes to court issues and cases. We just read about them in the papers. And how I wish I was the first to know. But we're the best of friends. I'm more talkative and outgoing since I'm into development work, which calls for dealing with people. He's the reserved type, which is suited to the nature of his job. I listen to everything he says and respect his privacy. But I always make him laugh and so do our grandchildren."

According to Ms Davide, the Chief Justice is a man of few words but when he imposes something, one has to listen well and do it right. "When I prematurely gave birth to our eldest, Hilario Jr., he asked me to stop working at the administration department of UP Cebu. I was only 24 then and I was not ready to say goodbye to my career. I couldn't imagine myself just staying at home. I believe that one has to separate the roles of mother and wife from the one that longs to achieve some more."

But since she believes that one has to be a partner in the fullest sense—one who supports the other in a personal way that's not available to him elsewhere, Ms Davide went on a sabbatical. At that time, her husband was already making waves as a brilliant lawyer. She, on the other hand, wanted to become one, too, but the Chief Justice advised her to take up another course. " 'One lawyer is enough in the family,' he told her. There was no intention of competing with him. So I took up public administration. And when I became a director, I was inspired to finish a doctorate in Philippine studies. Even if I'm fulfilled as a wife and mother, I thought that something was still lacking in my career."

Ms Davide says she's lucky to have a family who supports her to the hilt in all her endeavors. "One should only know how to handle children's questions regarding your job and find time for them."

But a political career is out of the question for Mrs. Davide and the Chief Justice. "I don't like the kind of politics we have. And I want to preserve our family. If you're in politics, you'd be out of the house most of the time and your detractors would concoct anything to put you in a bad light. I don't want to go through all that. Even my husband has been telling everyone that he has no political ambition. He does not want his reforms at the judiciary to be for nothing. Although the adulation during the impeachment trial and the Edsa rally were flattering, he'll not change his mind except if the hand of the Lord will orchestrate it."

Lady of faith

The story of Virginia Perez Davide transcends the politics of the moment and deals with fundamental things, above all faith and love. For her faith encompassed not only belief in a caring God, even when life stirs bitter doubts, but the faith to endure and to go on caring about the people in her life.

She shares the strength with her husband, especially during those weeks of the impeachment trial when he carried the future of the country on his shoulders together with the enlightened senators.

She's the wife of a Chief Justice who needs her strength and devotion as he struggles to lead the Supreme Court into an unknown future. But she's also one lady who'll continue to do her very best to make a contribution to the country's journey, in office or out of it.

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A modern miracle

By Ria Yap

EVERY now and then, God brightens up the paths of our lives with stories of faith and love in the most ordinary ways. For Shirley Sangalang, it began one fateful morning in April 1989 when she accidentally sprayed her right ear with perfume.

She felt a burning pain, wiped her ear with tissue, went to work, and forgot about it. On the fourth day, the pain came back and by the fifth day, it became unbearable. A friend recommended that she see a resident doctor at the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City.

The doctor who examined her ear said she would need surgery. "The way she said it was alarming and I got scared," said Shirley, who never liked going to hospitals.

She called a doctor friend and asked for another ear specialist who could give a second opinion. Her friend recommended Dr. Eric Nubla, an EENT doctor at the Makati Medical Center, Makati City. "I did not immediately see him because I didn't feel the pain anymore. I was also postponing the appointment because I was afraid the doctor would confirm what the first doctor said, that I would have to undergo surgery," she said. In September 1989, she finally got the courage to visit Dr. Nubla. She told him about the throbbing pain, but what really happened to her ear was not clear to her.

Dr. Nubla explained that the perfume caused a recurrent fungal infection and this had completely eaten up her eardrum and tympanic membrane. The ear, he explained, is a conducive place for bacteria, viruses and fungi because "it is a dark, poorly ventilated, and often, moist cavity. These conditions are ideal for disease to thrive," he said. "It had reached the point when the fungal infection was really bad," said Dr Nubla. "She was coming here twice a week, in pain. Sometimes she would cry when I cleaned her ear. But I had to be aggressive about it because if I weren't, she could develop an infection that could reach her brain."

Shirley said she could not sleep at nights and had to be absent from work for days. She also had a fever because of the infection and her hearing in the right ear was impaired. "I could not only feel the pain, I could even hear it. There would be pus each time I cleaned my ear. And I would spend sleepless nights every time I had an infection," she said.

There were other complications. "The middle ear was already overgrown with granulation tissue—human tissue already grew inward and began to invade structures inside the skull. If unchecked, this could infect the brain," said Dr. Nubla. By 1992, her ear had worsened because of the fungal infection, and there seemed to be little choice but surgery.

Dr. Nubla prescribed ear drops. He even asked Shirley to clean her ear with water and vinegar but it only got worse. "I could sense that the doctor was getting frustrated because we had applied four to five different kinds of ear drops, but I was not getting well."

In late May 1993, while Dr. Nubla was cleaning Shirley's ear, he casually asked her if she prayed to Blessed Josemaria Escriva. He got to know Shirley was a member of Opus Dei, also called The Work because Opus Dei means "work of God." Its members like Shirley call their founder the Father. "Do you pray to the father?" asked Dr. Nubla. Shirley said she did, but not for her ear. To which the doctor said, "Why don't you pray for a cure for your ear?" Shirley answered: "I will, if you pray with me."

At that point, Dr Nubla challenged Blessed Escriva: "If you're really the saint they say you are, heal your daughter's ear." With that, he instructed Shirley to come back in a week.

The cure

But Shirley did not return until after the third week. When she came back, Dr. Nubla was surprised to see her looking well and free from pain. After examining her right ear, he was amazed to find it completely free of disease. In his testimony, which he submitted to the Prelature of Opus Dei in Rome, he wrote that "the eardrum was fully restored with no trace of total perforation and disease."

In Rome, the case was studied closely by a team of experts from the medical field and by theologians. After careful and rigorous examination of the testimonies, facts, medical reports and other relevant documents, the conclusion was that indeed, the cure was miraculous. The cure was extraordinary and could not be explained or attributed to natural causes.

In a sense, said Shirley, "The miracle was also for Dr. Nubla as it was for me, because he had doubts then about the Father's intercession."

In his testimony, Dr. Nubla said, "I felt so humbled and an interior conviction assured me that it was Blessed Escriva's intercession that obtained Shirley's cure, not just for her benefit but also to win my heart." He recalled how he had prayed to Blessed Escriva in a half-believing, sarcastic way. "I guess my testimony is more interesting because I'm not partial," the doctor said in an interview recently. Dr. Nubla is not a member of the Work and his initial impressions of Blessed Escriva and Opus Dei were not very pleasant. People from the Work struck him then as "self-righteous and narrow-minded."

"That favor had a message for me which was very personal," affirmed Dr. Nubla. "It seemed to tell me that if God could make a saint out of Blessed Escriva, He could also do something to help me. And I know that pride is my stumbling block before God. I'm a very proud person and if I don't watch it, I'll lose my soul. I always tell our Lord to always keep me humble."

He added that he could relate to Blessed Escriva because "just like everybody else, he had challenges that seemed insurmountable. When you read about his life, his family had reverses, but he always tried to find out what God wanted of him. Toward the end, God took more and more possession of him, until in the end he was a person completely filled with God. He was a very good instrument in God's hands."

For Shirley, "My devotion to the father was strengthened and I'm always grateful for that. I never thought I had a serious infection. I thought it was ordinary. But through the prayers of another person, I was cured." Her cure, she said, has also helped her bring more people to have faith in God and trust in the power of prayer. "My friends and colleagues are more encouraged to pray to Blessed Josemaria after they heard my testimony. As you can see, I'm his living, concrete evidence," declared Shirley. She related that Dr. Nubla has also been encouraging his patients with ear problems to pray to Blessed Escriva.

Shirley's cure took place in June 1993. More than seven years later, to this day, she has never had an infection in her right ear. She adds that her right ear can even hear better than the other ear.

Blessed Josemaria Escriva was born on Jan. 9, 1902 in Barbastro, Spain. He founded Opus Dei in Madrid on Oct. 2, 1928. It has since extended its apostolates to the five continents. Blessed Josemaria died on June 26, 1975 in Rome and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in Rome on May 17, 1992. Those who would like to obtain more information about Opus Dei and Blessed Josemaria Escriva may contact the Information Office at manila@opusdei.org

Parenting, a balancing act

BY GRACE SHANGKUAN KOO, PH.D.

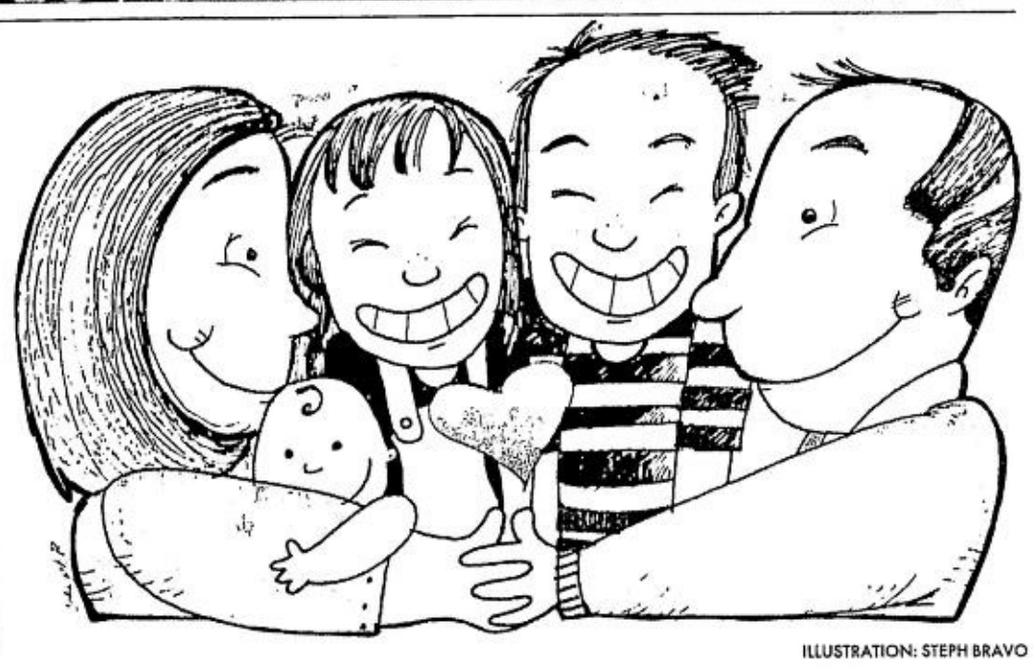


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

IN THE LAST two months or so, I have been invited to speak to several parent groups. When asked what topics they wanted me to talk about, the organizers voiced more or less the same concerns. The parents in their groups were not sure how they were doing as parents. Were they over-parenting or under-parenting? Were their expectations too high or too low? Were they too strict or too lenient? Should they make their children work harder or less?

Having been a parent for 15 years, I am not sure I have all the answers. But looking back to our first years as parents, my husband and I learned that just like other pursuits in life, parenting is an act of faith. You should work hard as if everything depends on you, knowing too that there are things that are beyond your control, and thus you must depend on God.

Nature and nurture

A child is born with a set of genes that carries something from your husband, parents, in-laws and grandparents. Nature is part of a problem-solving situation—some problems are easier, some more difficult. Parenting is the effort and process of bringing a solution to the problem. There is no uniform formula to all problems. But there are principles that can serve as heuristics.

For example, studies have shown the significant relationship between the home environment and academic achievement. The home environment could make or break a child. In fact, the more deprived a child is genetically, the more important parenting is to him.

How does home environment affect academic achievement? The parents set, directly or indirectly, the achievement standards for their child. Their interest and guidance in academic matters, their own aspirations and achievements rub off on the child. The content and extent of family activities (visiting museums or malls, spending money on books or clothes, playing chess or video games, reading books or comics) give the measure of intellectuality in the home. A child's intellectual development is also influenced by the language models of parents and siblings, the work habits of the family and the structure and standards of excellence they possess.

Love and control

How high should the parents' expectations be set? A parent asked me this question: Should we rather set our standards not too high so that we will not be frustrated? Well, standards are not enough without proper nurturing. On the other hand, with uncertain standards or none at all, the kids will be in trouble.

Parents should consider the two dimensions of parenting—love and control (warmth and standards). There are four possible parenting styles. Parents who are demanding of high standards but do not provide a warm relationship (high control/low love) are "authoritarian" in parenting style. Those who take an accepting attitude toward their children's actions and make few demands have a "permissive" parenting style (low control/high love). The "indifferent" parenting style describes parents who are uninvolved (low control/low love). The best are the "authoritative" parents (high love/high control) who set and enforce standards as well as provide open communication and encouragement to guide their children.

Work and play

Parents of school-aged children are uneasy about time allotment that should be given to work and play. Some parents worry about the insufficient time their children give to studies; others worry their children spend too much time for studies.

To what level of achievement in school should parents and children aspire? Would an 85 percent in exams be adequate? Maybe yes, maybe no. Parents need to look at the holistic development of a child. For one child, getting 100 percent is a breeze. For another, getting 95 percent would entail great sacrifices in other areas of development that in the long run would be detrimental to his health, physically or mentally. If he could be content with getting 90 percent, and still enjoy the other things in life, would it be worth it?

Many children have lost their childhood because of the ambition of their perfectionist parents. Kids need to work and play. Life is not a battleground; it does not consist of test papers alone. There is a playground to build memories and dreams, a neighborhood to build friendships and stories. Play is not only important for your child's physical development, it also benefits the child in his social (negotiation, cooperation), emotional (anxiety release) and cognitive (planning, achieving goals, memory) development.

IQ and EQ

How is your child doing in the EQ department? Is he aware of his own feelings? Does he articulate how he feels? Does he have a vocabulary of feeling words?

In a research, children were asked to take a test on reading comprehension. They did excellently on questions that asked for facts; when asked about how different characters might have felt at different points of the story, the children did poorly. This has been the emphasis of much of our education—such that the education of the heart has been neglected.

Without a self-awareness of emotions, it would be difficult to manage children. It is not uncommon to hear of incidents of quite intelligent people falling into depression or committing suicide as a way out of a problem.

High EQ also means self-motivation, particularly the ability to delay gratification, to be optimistic and to persist despite setbacks. There are high-achieving children who cannot bear the slightest disappointments and are easily frustrated by minor personal imperfections. There are those who cannot empathize with their less intelligent siblings or playmates. A common misconception about EQ is to equate it with having many friends. Social effectiveness has more to do with the quality of friendship than the quantity of friends.

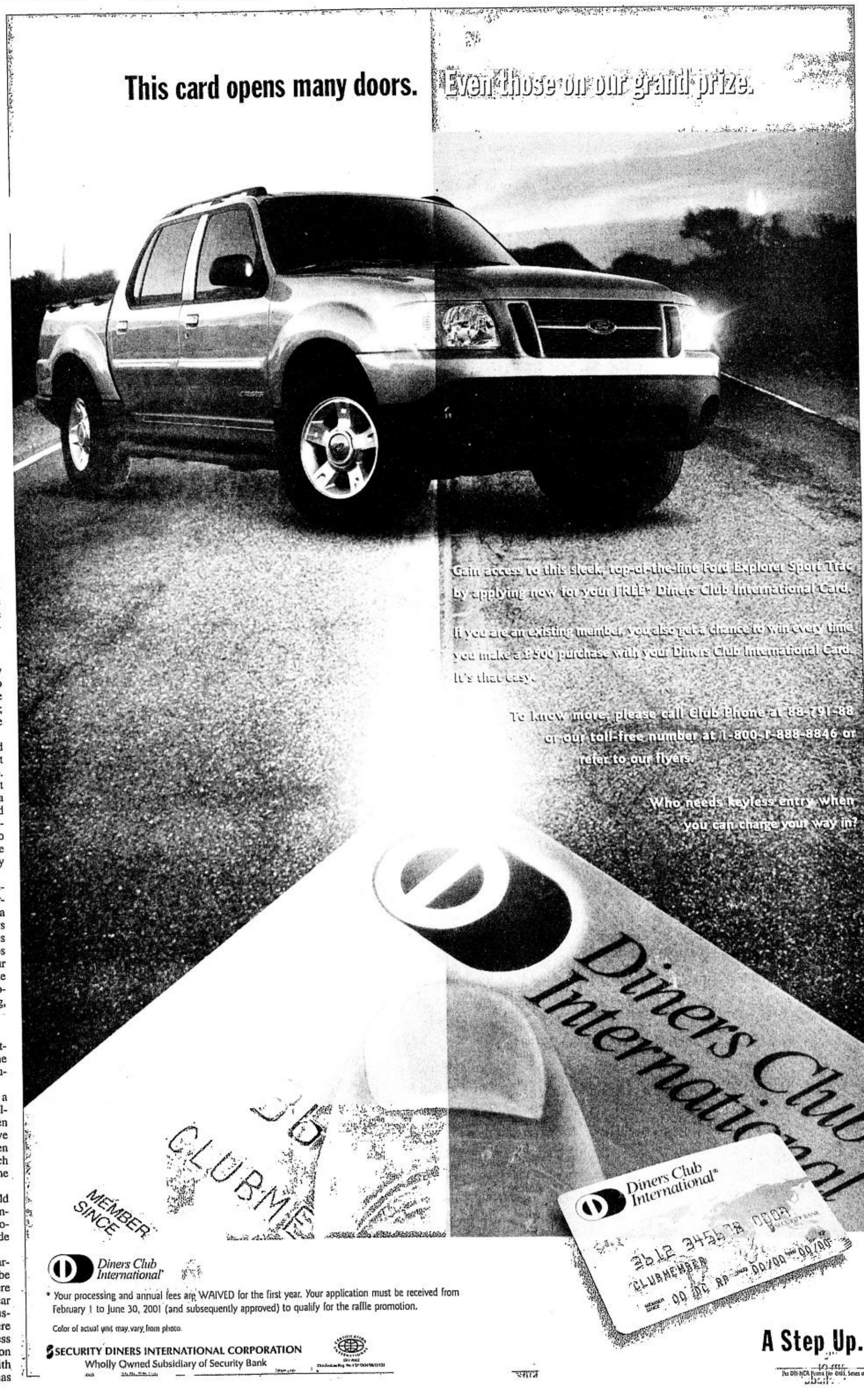
The best thing parents can do for their children is to give them roots and wings. Roots are the foundation that give stability to the children: family, security, moral and spiritual values. Wings give them freedom to fly to higher levels of accomplishments: creativity, independence, courage and confidence. Is your child adequate in both?

> The best thing parents can do for their children is to give them roots and wings —Jean Fleming

Who says parenting is easy? When I was a new parent, it was very difficult for me to leave the house without my baby. Watching a movie with my husband caused me so much guilt we would come home immediately after the movie. As our car turned the corner to our house, I would imagine the worst case scenario. What if the house was on fire. I shall never forgive myself for eternity. The first time my daughter fell from the bed (and bruised her nose) while I was shutting the windows to turn on the air-conditioner, it made me feel that I was less than adequate as a parent. The pictures taken weeks after with a bandage on her nose made me feel worse.

To what extent can we protect our children? How easily do we relent and ease control? While the depth of our children's lives is dependent on their roots, the height to which they will soar is dependent on their wings.

E-mail the author at grace@usa.net. Visit www.sunnybrook.net for past articles.



Getting Things Done Even In Paris, With Their Globe Handyphone.

Johnlu and Marilou Koa
Founder, The French Baker
Franchise-owner, Escada
International Roamers
Mobile Office Subscribers
Platinum Cardholders

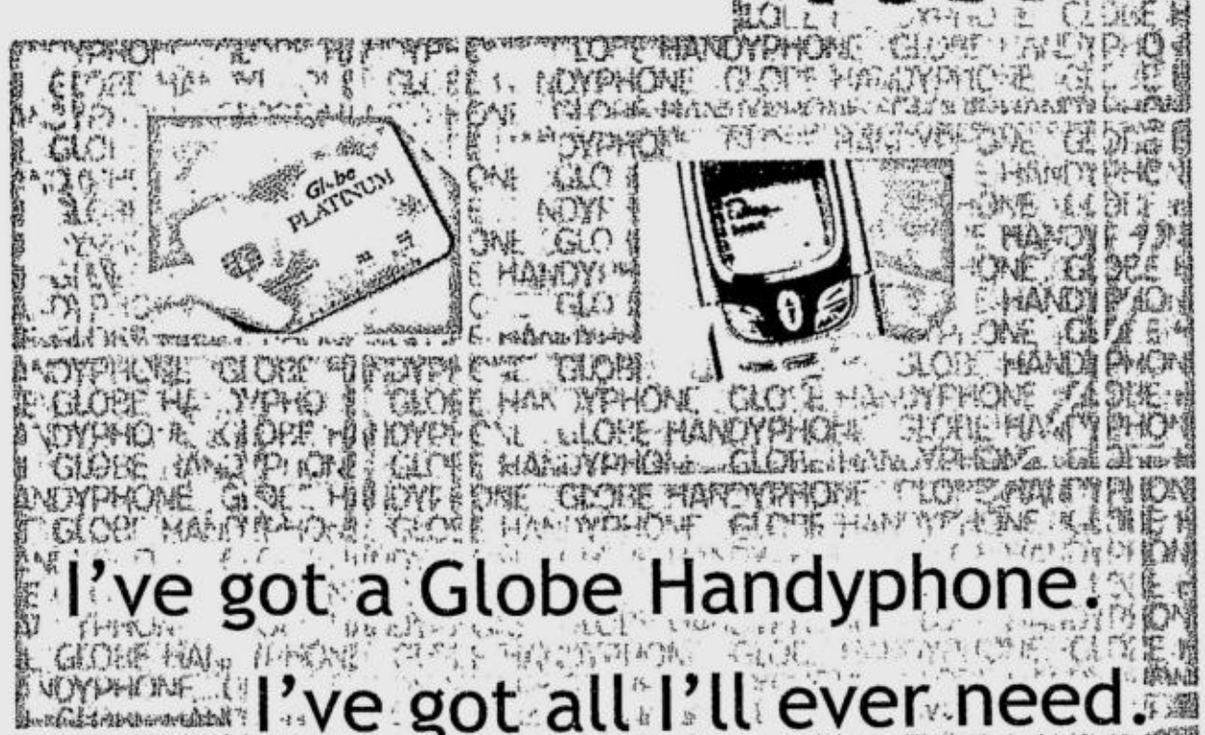
They thrive on building businesses that compete internationally. And they expect no less but the best from the choices they make. "We were disgruntled analogue subscribers. So when Globe launched the GSM technology, although we didn't know what that really means, we applied for the highest subscription plan right away," Johnlu reveals.

In fact, the couple belongs to the pioneer batch of international roamers. "That time, calling Manila with my cellphone when out of the country made me feel like a world-class business person," he adds. "And once, I had to use the hotel's business service to fax the office some memos while in Paris. Imagine, the cost was equivalent to an overnight stay!" Marilou adds. Now, they can do this through their Globe Handyphone. Thus, knowing they can do more than just make calls afforded them a sense of wellness.

With over a hundred international roaming destinations around the world, the Koas are always within reach as they travel, which they do several times a year. "We get to watch over the kids and close the best transactions while away from home and office," Johnlu attests.

Aside from having their unique technological needs met, the Koas are afforded preferential treatment as Globe Platinum Cardholders. "I have a spare SIM in my wallet, which I keep with my credit cards. So no matter what happens to my phone, I won't be totally lost," enthuses Marilou.

"Our past experiences with Globe and all the technology it introduced makes us confident that if there's anything new, Globe Handyphone will adopt it for all its subscribers," she concludes.



Fund-raiser for poor kids, Mouna Al Ayoub's autobiography, a day in citizen Erap's life

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

MUST-GO-TO concert. We all know the importance of education for the young. We also know that many gifted children from poor families may never get the chance to have a better future due to lack of education.

"The Music of Dreams" is a fund-raising concert to benefit deserving children from economically disadvantaged families. It will be held on March 16 at the PICC. Proceeds will go to Centex (Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education), which gives these children quality education and a better tomorrow.

The concert will feature **Pops Fernandez, Jaya, Regine Velasquez, Lani Misalucha, Coke Bolipata** and **Basil Valdez,** with musical direction by **Ryan Cayabyab**. Centex is managed by the Ayala Foundation Inc. and spearheaded by one of the most warmhearted and beautiful persons I know, **Kit Zobel.** Tickets are available at the PICC or Ticket World. Call the concert secretariat at 759-4014.

Eating out in Manila. We are known for our hospitality. We always smile and we are courteous, but when it comes to service, especially in restaurants, we score low. It is so annoying to go to a restaurant and pay good hard-earned money for such poor service.

It all starts once you get the menu and finally make a choice. Then they tell you they don't have what you want. You choose something else and they tell you they don't have it as well. Then you ask them what they have, they answer, "Everything except what you asked for."

I am sure almost everyone has had such a horror experience. When I was eating at (bleep), I saw a huge rat run across the floor. I called the waitress and said, "*May nakita akong malaking daga.*"

She countered, "*Talaga, kasing laki ba ng pusa*?"

Or the time I ate in (bleep) and saw a small caterpillar wriggling in my salad. The manager was there (he was Italian) and I mentioned the worm in my salad. He said, "That's not a worm," and took my plate.

In both places, there were no apologies, no free iced tea or discount. I swore never to eat there again and will tell everyone who asks me the names of those places.

What's more annoying is when waiters look at you like they are "*walang gana*" or "*masungit.*" You try to understand them because maybe they are having a bad day, lost something or their boss scolded them. Wait a minute, that is not my problem. I went to their restaurant to eat, not to analyze their behavior.

Going back to the money part. Everyone who eats in an establishment goes there for a memorable experience. They want to make sure their money goes a long way. If you look at your receipt, a 10-percent service charge has been added, but being nice and generous, we still give them tips.

I have vowed that if the service is bad (read: you don't get your drinks on time, the main course is served before the appetizer, etc.), then they don't deserve a tip. As in all things, they have to earn it. That's why it is important for restaurant owners, chefs and managers to educate the staff on good service and reprimand them when something goes wrong.

As consumers, it's only right to complain when something is wrong with the service and the food. But when the food and service are good, we should also learn to praise and leave a tip.

Next week: Terror diner

* * *

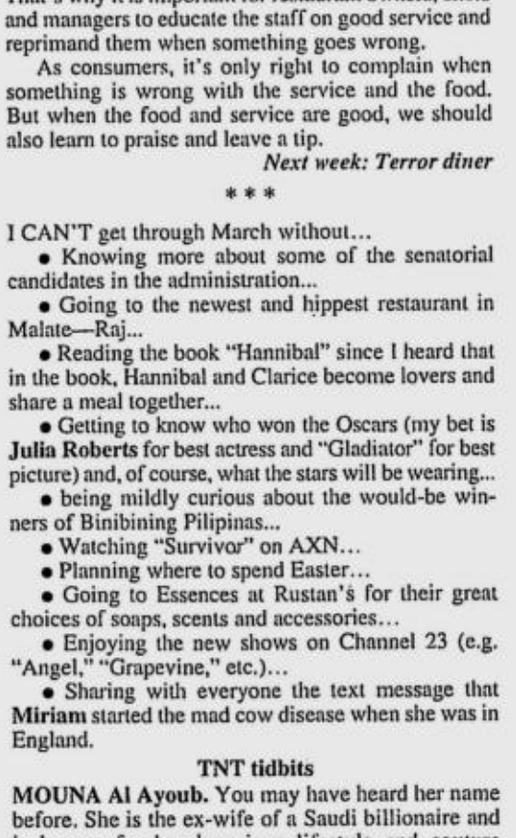
I CAN'T get through March without...

- Knowing more about some of the senatorial candidates in the administration...
- Going to the newest and hippest restaurant in Malate—Raj...
- Reading the book "Hannibal" since I heard that in the book, Hannibal and Clarice become lovers and share a meal together...
- Getting to know who won the Oscars (my bet is **Julia Roberts** for best actress and "Gladiator" for best picture) and, of course, what the stars will be wearing...
- being mildly curious about the would-be winners of Binibining Pilipinas...
- Watching "Survivor" on AXN...
- Planning where to spend Easter...
- Going to Essences at Rustan's for their great choices of soaps, scents and accessories...
- Enjoying the new shows on Channel 23 (e.g. "Angel," "Grapevine," etc.)...
- Sharing with everyone the text message that **Miriam** started the mad cow disease when she was in England.

TNT tidbits

MOUNA Al Ayoub. You may have heard her name before. She is the ex-wife of a Saudi billionaire and is known for her luxurious lifestyle and couture

FUND-RAISER/ p.D3



ARABIAN-STYLE revenge—Mouna Al Ayoub's tell-all book. The author with her 100.10K emerald jewelry in a dramatic pose

What Drives You

Professionalism

It's the same thing that drives us to give you the stellar service only Caltex can provide. With our professionally-trained mechanics, you can be sure you'll get the best change oil, tune-up and other mechanical services -- at a speed that won't bog you down. At Caltex Xpress Lube, we make sure we do everything right.

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Other Services: Change Oil • Tune-Up • Carwash • Auto Detailing • Coolant Service • 22-Point Preventive Maintenance Check • Underchassis Service • Brake Fluid Service
• *Specialized services are also offered in some outlets:* Wheel Balancing • Wheel Alignment • Major Tune-Up • Major Mechanical Repairs

Nationwide Xpress Lube locations:
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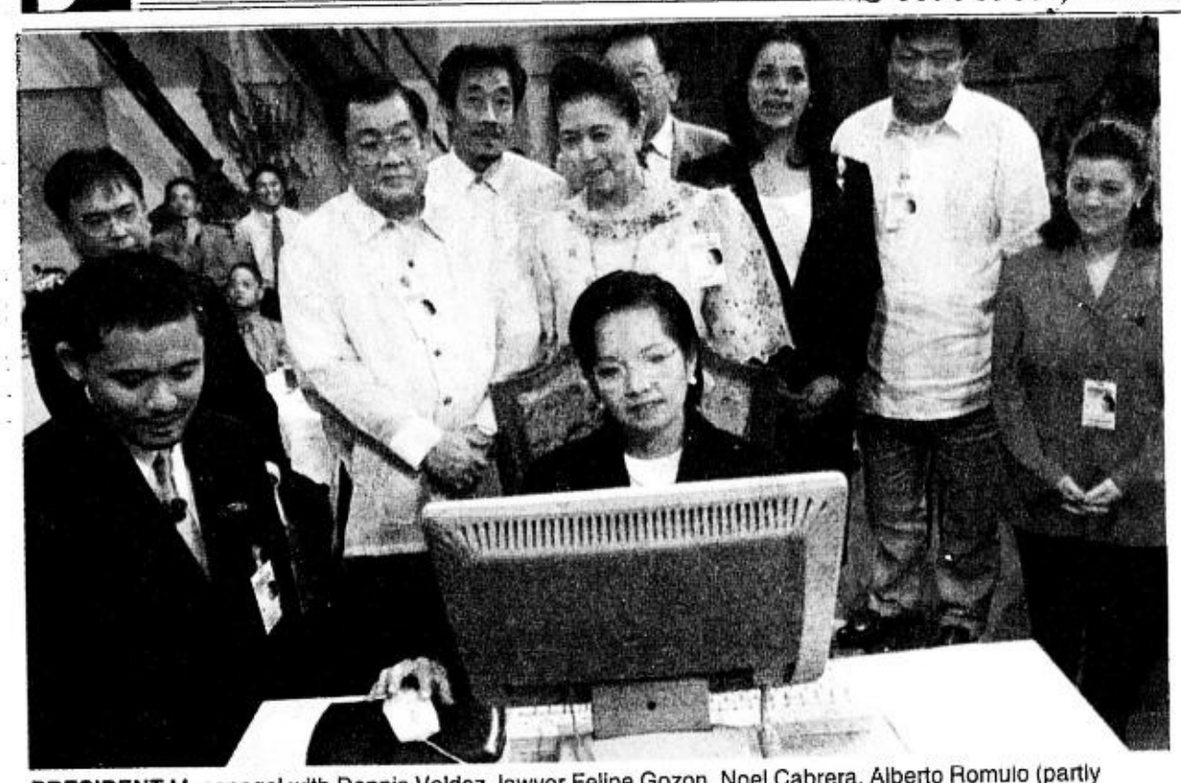


PRESIDENT Macapagal with Dennis Valdez, lawyer Felipe Gozon, Noel Cabrera, Alberto Romulo (partly hidden), Marixi Prieto, Judith Duavit-Vazquez, Pantaleon Alvarez and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez

BOBBY Gantuangco, Edna Belleza, Jun Rufino, Leo Magno, Judith Duavit-Vazquez and Dennis Valdez

PHOTOS BY DENNIS SABANGAN

PDI and GMA forge its partnership on the Net

WHILE OTHER websites are trying to save themselves from an identity crisis, the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER and GMA Network launched Feb. 27 a joint news website called INQ7 Interactive Inc. with a clear idea of what they want to do—offer the latest news.

There are more than three billion sites on the Web today, and most have fallen prey to the trap of trying to become "one-stop-shop" sites, providing everything for everyone. INQ7.net, according to its officials, is focused on making its website an online news and information delivery site. Logically so since GMA Network and the INQUIRER are known for delivering the news. To lose sight of their core competence would be a mistake in this age when websites are targeting specific audiences.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurated the website's feedback form dubbed "Tell the President what you think." This feature of INQ7.net will enable Filipinos worldwide to stay in touch with the current administration and become part of a global virtual community of concerned citizens.

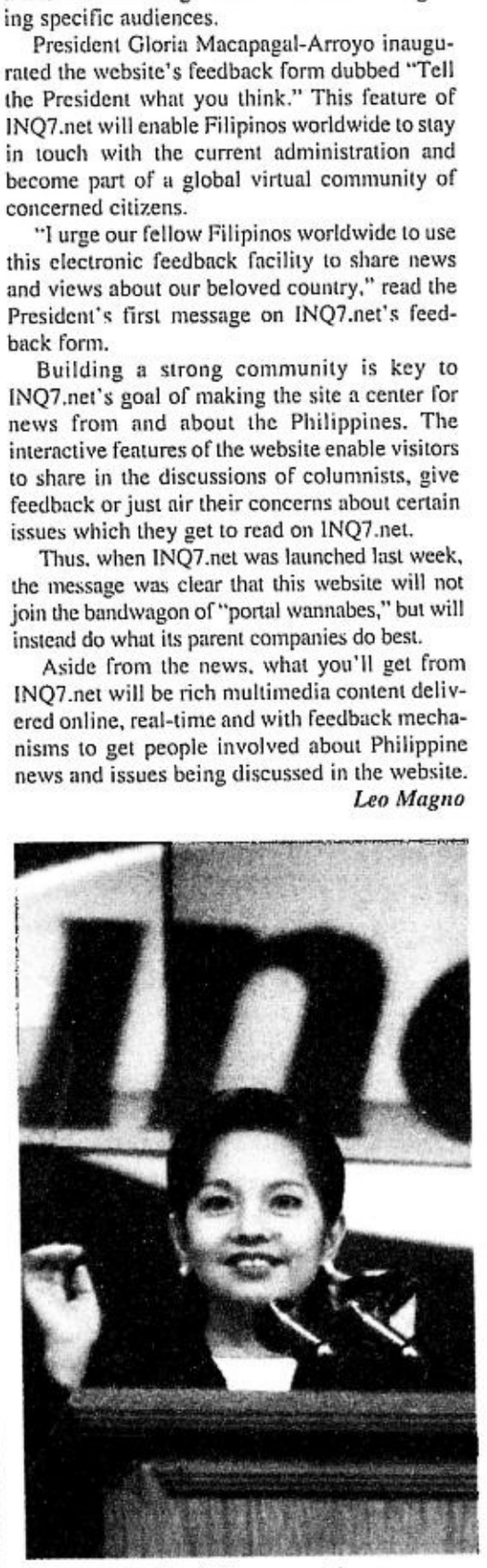
"I urge our fellow Filipinos worldwide to use this electronic feedback facility to share news and views about our beloved country," read the President's first message on INQ7.net's feedback form.

Building a strong community is key to INQ7.net's goal of making the site a center for news from and about the Philippines. The interactive features of the website enable visitors to share in the discussions of columnists, give feedback or just air their concerns about certain issues which they get to read on INQ7.net.

Thus, when INQ7.net was launched last week, the message was clear that this website will not join the bandwagon of "portal wannabes," but will instead do what its parent companies do best.

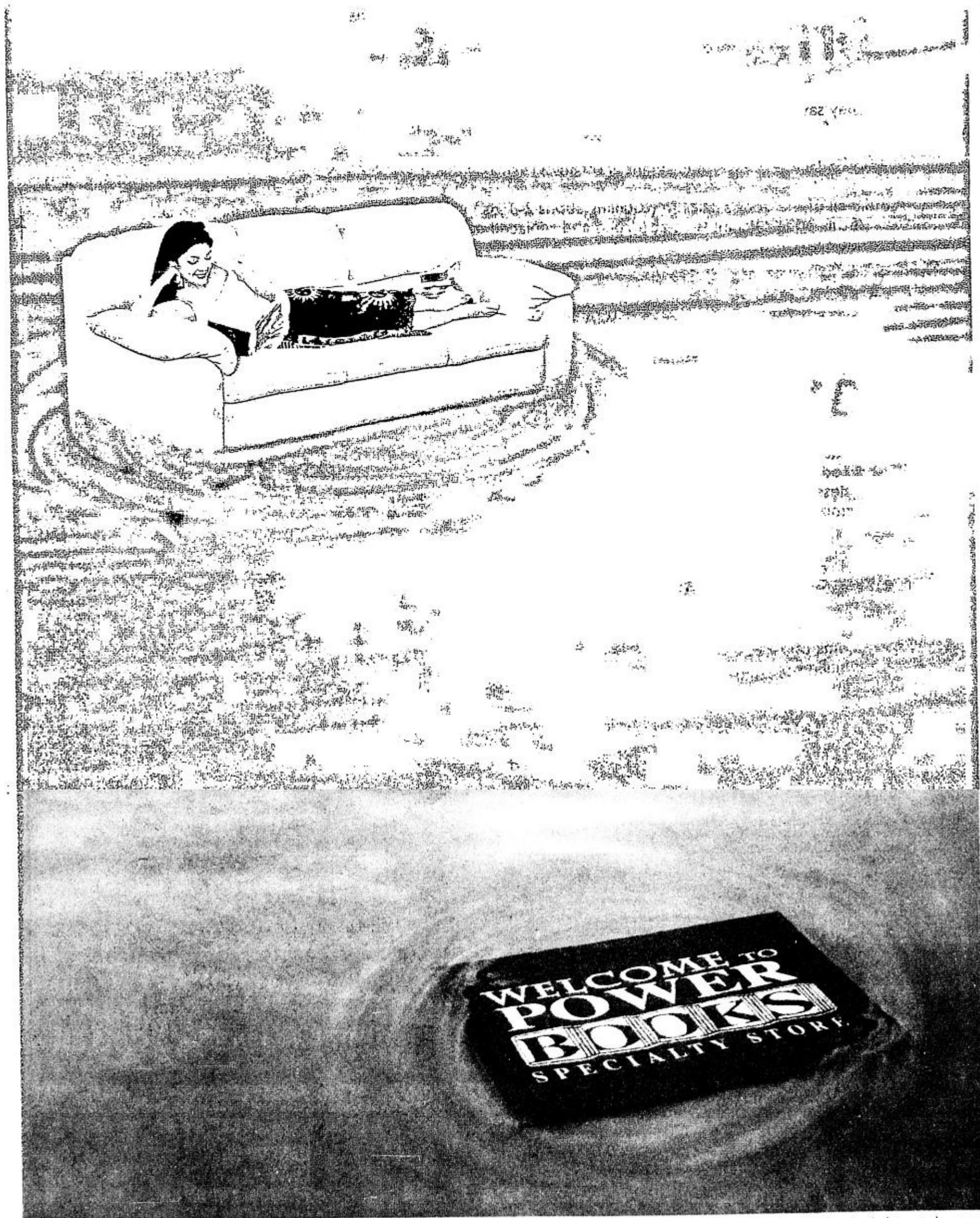
Aside from the news, what you'll get from INQ7.net will be rich multimedia content delivered online, real-time and with feedback mechanisms to get people involved about Philippine news and issues being discussed in the website.

Leo Magno



PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

PDI's Marixi Prieto with PLDT's Manny Pangilinan



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LEIA Regala with daughter

ARVIN Quirante plays Thuy in "Miss Saigon."

A grand lady at 75

AMPARO Mendoza Aspiras has lived a full life as the wife of a Cabinet minister, a mother, vice governor of her province of La Union, charity worker and beautiful grandmama. So when she turned 75 last week, her children and grandchildren organized a Mass and dinner buffet at Bahia of the Hotel Inter-Continental.

It was a night filled with love songs and ballroom dancing. It was an evening to remember as the family of Madame Aspiras paid tribute to a gracious lady.

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

BABOT Oreta with mom, Amparo Aspiras

WOMEN IN TRAVEL. Dading Clemente, Celia Villanueva, Nene Estrada and Beth de la Fuente

MARI Lacson and Christy Aspiras

BEAUTIFUL Teodoro sisters, Charlotte and Monique

Fund-raiser . . .

(From page D1)

gowns valued at more than $100,000 each. Recently, she wrote an autobiography showcasing her life as a mother, life in Saudi Arabia, her divorce and her newfound freedom.

In France, she has become an icon, but the same can't be said in her native Lebanon, which has dubbed her Madame Bovary of the Dessert. Her ex-husband, **Nasser Al-Rashid**, and some Saudi Arabians are also not happy with the contents of her tell-all book.

She writes that some Saudi women are so annoyed with the treatment they get from their philandering husbands that they take revenge by going on shopping sprees in Paris and having affairs with their Filipino drivers. At least in Manila it's not drivers, but DIs.

Closer to paradise. About four weeks ago I featured the resort Pansukian, which was chosen by Architectural Digest (December 2000) as one of the Great Escapes. I never told you how to get there, which takes almost half a day, so as not spoil your nice thoughts of the place. But don't be disheartened for you can now go to the beautiful resort in less than two hours. Starting March 16, Sea Air will be flying straight to the island of Siargao (read: 50 minutes) from Cebu. The Manila-Cebu trip takes an hour. Call Travel Vision (032) 234-1282/1613 or Sea Air (Manila) 891-8708 and 851-9456.

A day in the life of Erap. Have you ever wondered (or cared) what Erap's day must be like now that he isn't president anymore?

TNT conjured up a day in his life. He isn't the leader he once was and his life may not be as eventful, but it's as interesting despite the changes.

12 a.m. Sleep.

2 a.m. Wakes up due to a nightmare that he was on a barge with **Loi** and the mistresses do not know which one to save.

4 a.m. Wakes up again and realizes he is no longer president and has no agenda so he sleeps again.

7:30 a.m. Eats breakfast with Loi and talks about her campaign. She verbalizes how much she loves him despite... He looks at her and smiles.

7:35 a.m. Calls **Guia, Laarni, Rowena** and **Joy**.

10 a.m. Meets with his loyal friends. (total: three)

11 a.m. **JV** calls to ask if he wants to watch "Miss Saigon" and assures him that even if **Lea** is no longer there, it is still a good show.

12:30 p.m. Eats lunch alone then watches "MTB" while thinking of joining "Pera o Bayong."

2 p.m. Calls **Ed Angara** and **Danding Cojuangco** but both don't answer the phone.

3 p.m. Joins campaign sortie. Overwhelmed by the crowd. Prepares to make a speech.

3:05 p.m. Falls from the stage.

4:30 p.m. Greets the crowd who try to get close to him. He shakes their hands while they tell him, "*Isama n'yo kami sa* Hawaii."

5 p.m. Calls **Tessie Oreta** and **John Osmeña** and asks for some of the *balato* money.

6 p.m. Welcomes visitors to his home for *merienda* and Mass. Everyone is welcome provided you have a Greenhills sticker, you are a pro-Erap and you look like Miriam Santiago.

7 p.m. Plays *pusoy dos* with bodyguards. The bodyguards make sure they lose.

7:30 p.m. Watches "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" but can't seem to get past the P5,000 question.

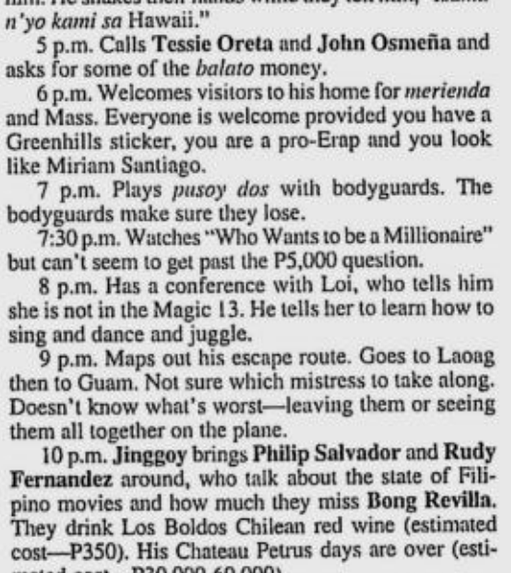
8 p.m. Has a conference with Loi, who tells him she is not in the Magic 13. He tells her to learn how to sing and dance and juggle.

9 p.m. Maps out his escape route. Goes to Laoag then to Guam. Not sure which mistress to take along. Doesn't know what's worst—leaving them or seeing them all together on the plane.

10 p.m. **Jinggoy** brings **Philip Salvador** and **Rudy Fernandez** around, who talk about the state of Filipino movies and how much they miss **Bong Revilla**. They drink Los Boldos Chilean red wine (estimated cost—P350). His Chateau Petrus days are over (estimated cost—P30,000-60,000).

11 p.m. Gets ready to sleep, prays, reads the book, "How to Start a New Career." Bids Loi good night, gives her a kiss, tells her how much he appreciates what she is doing. All this via the intercom.

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com


MUST-GO-TO EVENT. "Music for Dreams," a fund-raiser spearheaded by Kit Zobel, seen here with daughter Natasha

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Milk, they say, is the almost perfect food. It is the first nourishment a baby gets during the first minutes of his life outside his mother's womb. Milk and its products are a primary source of calcium- an important mineral present in the body. Most health advocates agree that the best way to get your children's daily calcium requirement is through regular intake of milk and milk products.

Almost all of the body's calcium (totalling about 2-3 lbs.) is found in our bones and teeth. In an adult, 20% of this bone calcium is re-absorbed and replaced each year, meaning new bone cells form as old ones break down.

(1) Source: Vitamin Bible for the 21st Century, Earl Mundell, 1999; Warner Books

Now, current studies prove that a natural fiber can even enhance calcium absorption.
This wonder fiber is known as

NATURAL INULIN FIBER

It is a soluble fiber extractable from garlic, onions, chicory, artichokes and even bananas. Natural Inulin Fiber is today being recognized by the U.S. dairy industry for its healthful benefits. The possibilities are just limitless: for dairy foods-including milk products-are now being identified as preferred carriers for maximizing Inulin's nutritional properties.

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Now, moms can give their kids the additional calcium they need with new Lactum now with Natural Inulin Fiber. The calcium of milk, added with the 100% nourishment of Lactum are now combined with Inulin to ensure complete absorption of health-giving nutrients. So make sure your kids drink

Lactum* now with Natural Inulin Fiber to help 100% nourishment be 100% absorbed.

It is with great pride and pleasure that I convey my warmest felicitations to **Smart Communications, Inc.**

I wish to congratulate your company for having won the "Most Innovative GSM Wireless Services for Customers" Award in the recently concluded Congress of the GSM Association in Cannes, France. This award and recognition for your innovative service product called "Smart Money" is an achievement not only for Smart but for the entire local telecommunications industry. It shows that Philippine companies can make their indelible mark in the highly competitive field of international telecommunications.

I commend the efforts of your company in establishing the Philippines as one of Asia's pioneers in the field of telecommunications. The cutting edge technology and Filipino ingenuity reflected in your Smart Money product prove once more that our wireless services are at par with the leading nations of the world. This milestone underscores the opportunity our country has in establishing a strategic niche in the complex field of telecommunications.

With the rapid pace of development in technology, I urge Smart Communications, Inc. to do its share in nation building by continuing to be a potent force in the telecommunications industry. I hope the new administration can count on your initiatives in providing a more prosperous and progressive society for the Filipino people.

Congratulations and MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest congratulations to Smart Communications, Inc., for winning the "Most Innovative GSM Wireless Service for Customers Award" in the GSM World Congress in Cannes, France.

The recognition given to Smart for its entry, ***Smart Money***, is indeed significant as it acknowledged the Filipinos among the world's leading technological innovators in wireless services.

In this regard, the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) hopes that Smart Communications, Inc. will continue to develop services that would not only bring satisfaction to its subscribers but also bring pride and recognition to the Filipino ingenuity.

Mabuhay!

PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Secretary
Department of Transportation and Communication

Our warmest greetings and sincerest congratulations to the dynamic men and women of **Smart Communications, Inc.** for winning the ***"Most Innovative GSM Wireless Service for Customers"*** Award at the recent GSM World Congress in Cannes, France.

It is truly heartening to note that Smart earned this distinction for ***"Smart Money"*** - which, we understand, is **the world's first reloadable cash card linked to a mobile phone service.**

This recognition highlights what Philippine companies can achieve in the rapidly developing fields of mobile communications and wireless services. It underscores the potential benefits that the country can enjoy if we aggressively harness the skills and expertise of our people in information technology and telecommunications.

Indeed, as the digital economy becomes even more pronounced, the application of cutting edge IT and telecommunications technologies and innovations into our local business operations becomes even more vital if we are to fortify their linkages with the global information network and maximize their impact on our bid for global competitiveness.

To the management and staff of **Smart Communications, Inc.**, our best wishes for continuing success!

Mabuhay! All the best and congratulations!

MAR ROXAS
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry

We at the National Telecommunications Commission congratulate Smart Communications, Inc., for winning the prestigious GSM Association Awards 2001 in the Most Innovative GSM Wireless Service for Customers Category with its electronic cash card, SMART Money.

In its sixth year, the GSM Awards is considered as a tribute to the achievers that continue to lead the development of the GSM family of technologies.

We are proud that Smart Money has gained recognition from the international telecommunications industry. This wireless service, the first e-cash card linked to a mobile phone is a Filipino original. It integrates cutting edge global technology with Filipino ingenuity proving once more that our wireless services are at par with the leading nations of the world.

With the rapid pace of development of technology and the huge social responsibilities that accompany such changes, may Smart's creativity and innovation for the benefits of the consumers serve as an inspiration for all of us.

Very respectfully yours,

B. Gen. ELISEO M. RIO Jr.
Commissioner
National Telecommunications Commission

RT

APANY TO WIN RECOGNITION GSM ASSOCIATION.

S SERVICE FOR CUSTOMERS AWARD

ey

It Started With A Vision...

From the beginning, SMART Communications' management, partners and shareholders had a vision of making the company a world-class provider of innovative cellular services.

The vision is becoming a reality. In 1998 and 2000, The Far Eastern Economic Review, one of Asia's leading business magazines, cited SMART as one of the top 10 leading Philippine companies. Readers were asked to rank local and multinational companies based on overall leadership, service and product quality, long term vision, innovative response to customer needs and financial soundness.

SMART: cited as one of the top 10 leading Philippine companies by the Far Eastern Economic Review in 1998 and 2000.

EUROMONEY

SMART: ranked 4th in Euromoney's survey on best Asian telecom companies in 2000.

Leading financial magazine Euromoney has also recognized SMART Communications as one of Asia's best-managed cellular telecommunications companies for the year 2000.

Coming in fourth in Euromoney's annual survey, SMART was given high marks by market analysts from major banks and research institutes worldwide. Respondents were asked to nominate the top companies in each of the countries and sectors they covered. Factors they considered were market strength, profitability, growth potential and the quality of management and earnings.

SMART: named as the 1997 Marketing Company Of The Year by the Agora Awards.

Even as early as 1997, SMART received the country's highest and most coveted award for marketing excellence: "Marketing Company of the Year" in the Agora Awards of the Philippine Marketing Association. It bested several leading companies, even multinational corporations across industries.

...Then Came Worldwide Recognition

SMART proved that it was at par with the world's best when it scored a major victory at the 2001 GSM Association Awards of the World GSM Congress in Cannes, France – the GSM community's version of the Olympics. Given annually, the World GSM Awards cites telecommunications companies for their excellent and innovative GSM products and services.

This year, companies from all over the world competed for the coveted awards for technical and commercial innovations. The GSM Association received a record number of 1,950 entries. The judging panel was faced with the difficult task of selection from a long list of outstanding new initiatives and pioneering products and services. With the SMART Money Service as an entry to the GSM Awards, SMART received the Most Innovative GSM Wireless Service for Customers Award, beating numerous entries from other top telecom companies from Europe, America and Asia.

But despite the victory, the work is far from finished – there are still many dreams to be fulfilled in the years to come. The global recognition has provided SMART not only with the realization of a vision, but also the inspiration to continue providing world class services that will change the way people live forever.

Napoleon L. Nazareno (right), SMART President & CEO shown accepting the GSM award from Rob Conway, CEO of the GSM Association

The World-Class, Award-Winning Service: SMART Money

SMART Money MasterCard Electronic is the product of the combined expertise of SMART Communications, the widest wireless digital network, and MasterCard, the world's leading global payments service provider. SMART Money is the first and only reloadable cash card linked to a mobile phone. It allows you to reload your own SMART pre-paid account or someone else's completely over the air. This can be valuable to parents who want to load their children's buddy cellfones. With SMART Money, you will never have to be afraid of running out of cash on hand since you can use it to purchase everyday necessities such as food, medicine and gas from all MasterCard Electronic and SMART Money-affiliated establishments nationwide. You can even buy from stores that don't normally accept credit cards such as bazaars, sarigges, and cinemas.

The SMART Management Team

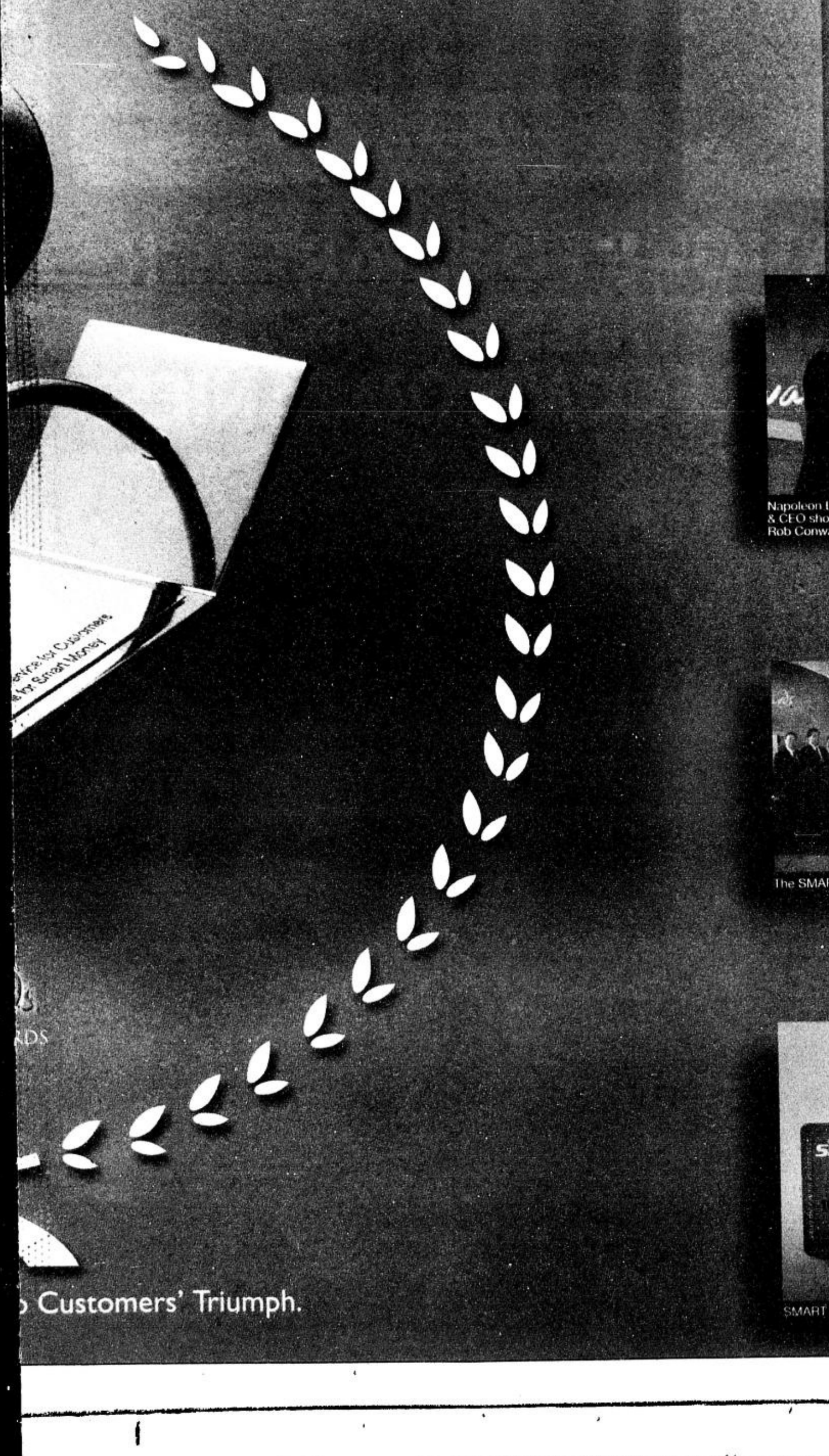
You can also order and pay for goods and services such as movie tickets, food and flowers without even going to the store and have them delivered anywhere. Parents can use this feature to have food delivered to their kids at home, or by anyone who wants to have flowers delivered. What's more, you can even transfer value from one SMART Money card to another, for example, parents can load cash credit into their children's SMART Money cash cards.

SMART Money was launched last December 18, 2000. To date, thousands have availed of the service.

SMART MONEY: A world-class innovation

SMART Money cash cards come free with every purchase of a SMART Money/MBS SIM Pack. Cash value can be loaded in the SMART Money card account either through SMART Mobile Banking Solution or over the counter at accredited loading centers.

SMART Money



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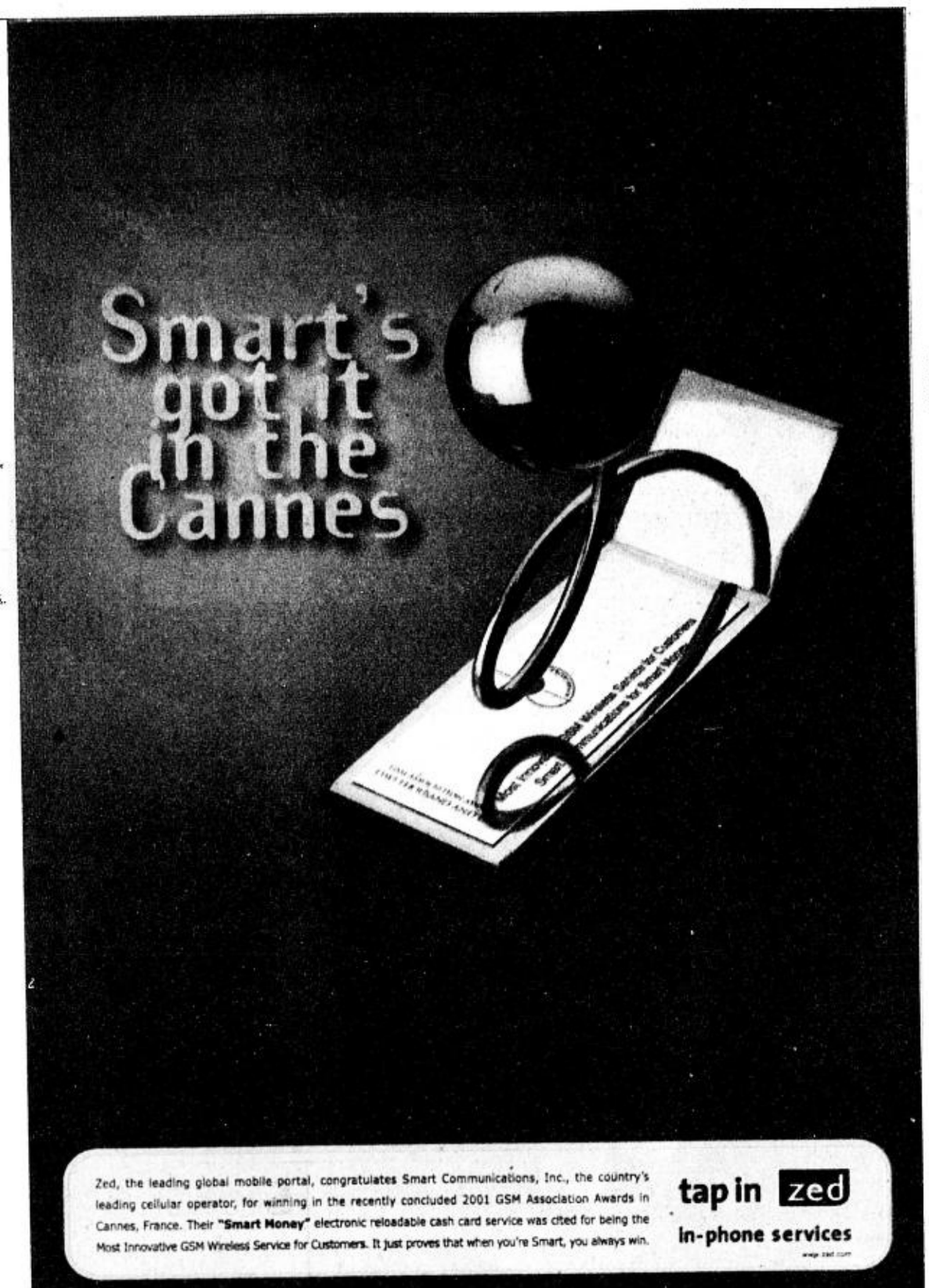
conquers the payment services world.

MasterCard International
is proud to be part of this award-winning
payment service innovation.

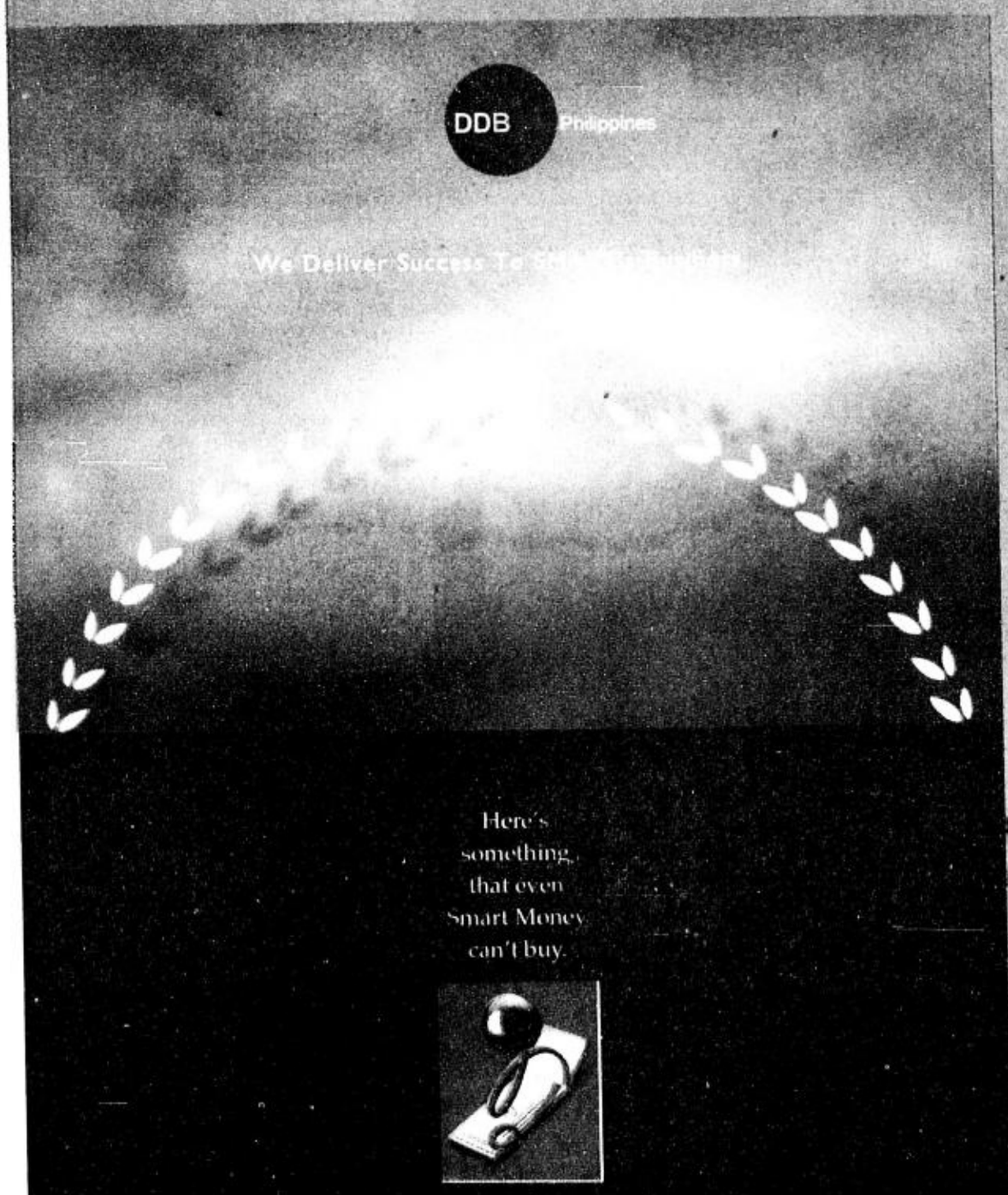
We salute the ingenuity of the Filipino
in bringing the technology of the future
to the Philippines
and the rest of the world.



Zed, the leading global mobile portal, congratulates Smart Communications, Inc., the country's leading cellular operator, for winning in the recently concluded 2001 GSM Association Awards in Cannes, France. Their **"Smart Money"** electronic reloadable cash card service was cited for being the Most Innovative GSM Wireless Service for Customers. It just proves that when you're Smart, you always win.

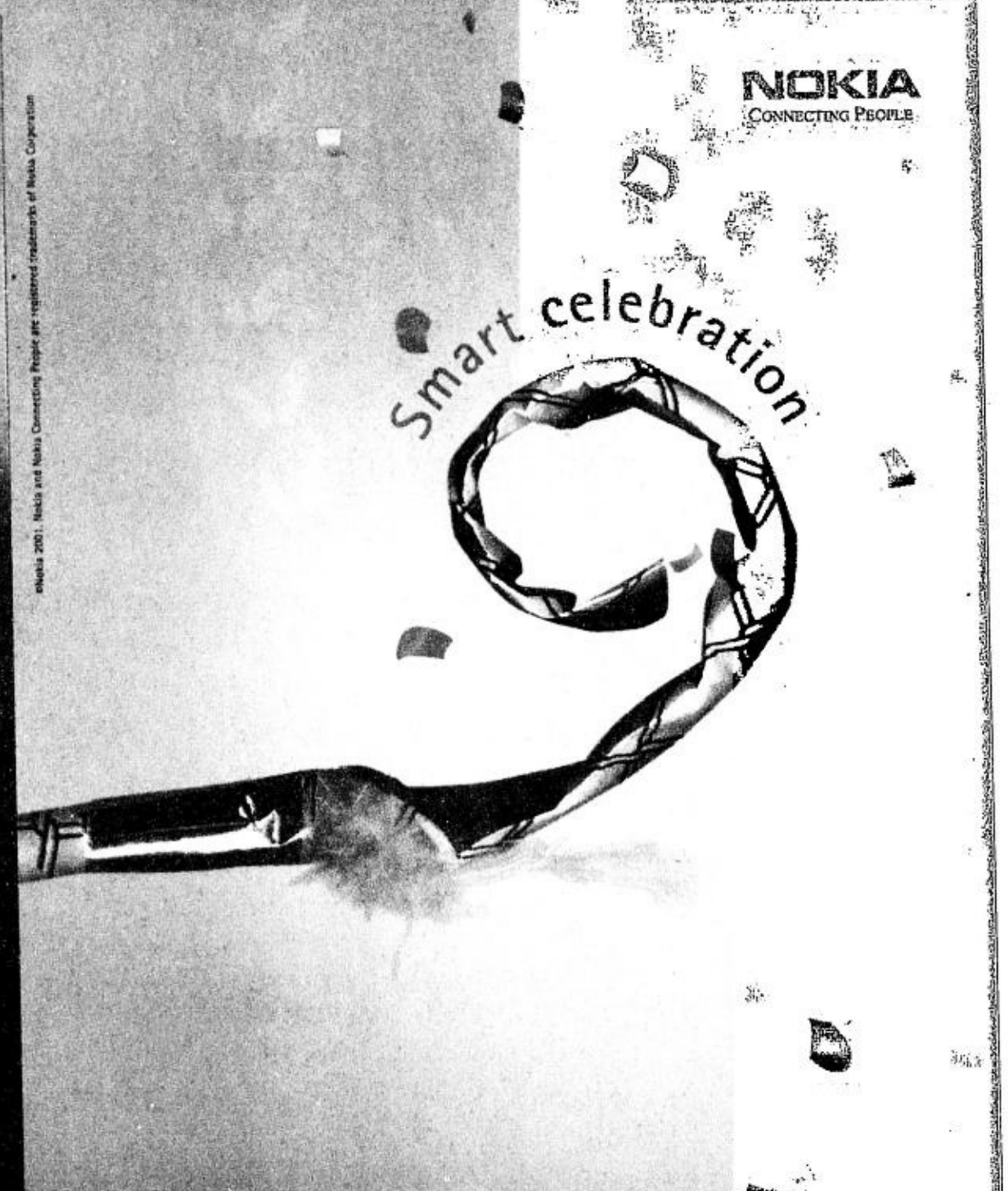
tap in zed
in-phone services

CONGRATULATIONS TO SMART FOR BESTING 360 ENTRIES FROM THE WORLD'S TOP TELECOM COMPANIES.

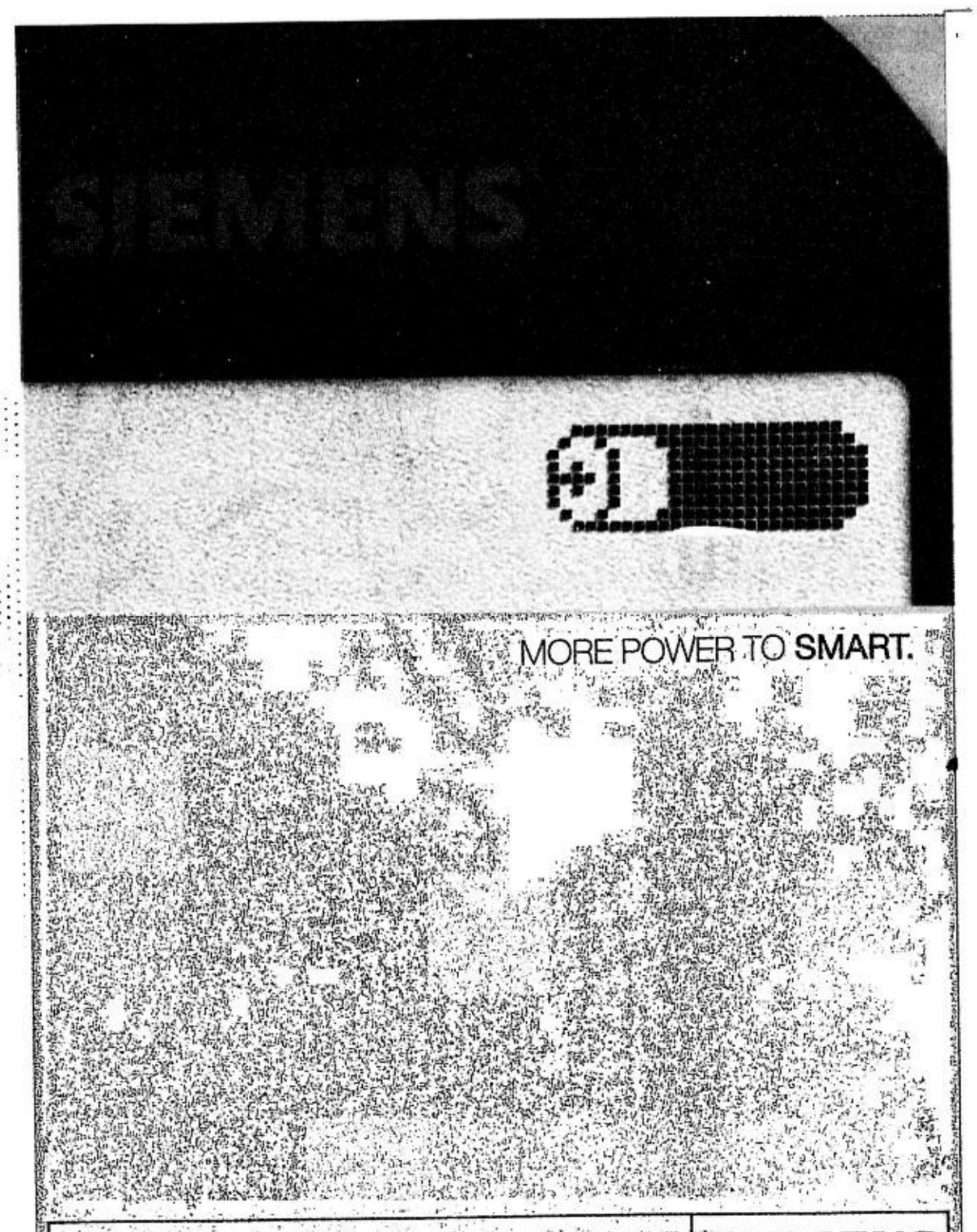


Smart Communications, Inc. just bagged a trophy in the recent 2001 GSM Association Awards in Cannes, France. Their Smart Money electronic reloadable cash card service was voted as the Most Innovative GSM Wireless Service for Customers. To the judges we say, good call!

CONGRATULATIONS FROM ACE SAATCHI & SAATCHI



Nokia congratulates Smart Communications, Inc. for winning the Most Innovative GSM Wireless Service for Customers Award for Smart Money at the 2001 GSM Association Awards in Cannes, France.



Mobile Internet is the next major revolution
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the way we interact with people around us
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And just as Ericsson has pioneered mobile telephony,
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the Mobile Internet.

innovation

Smart Money - World's Most Innovative Wireless Service.

Ericsson salutes
Smart Communications, Inc.
for sharing the same vision of innovation.
Smart, with its latest m-commerce service,
Smart Money, was honored with
the prestigious "Most Innovative
GSM Wireless Service for Customers Award" at the
2001 GSM Association Awards in Cannes, France.
This distinct honor given by
the world's only GSM Association
is a first for a Philippine
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Really creative.

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Absolutely SMART

Congratulations to Smart Communications, Inc. for being recognized as the
MOST INNOVATIVE GSM WIRELESS SERVICE FOR CUSTOMERS
at the 2001 GSM Association Awards in Cannes, France.

Philips Mobile Phones

PHILIPS
Let's make things better

We, the Management and Staff of Alcatel,

extend our sincerest congratulations to

SMART Communications, Inc.

for garnering the

Most Innovative GSM Wireless Service

For Customers Award

at the 2001 GSM Association Awards

in Cannes, France.

ALCATEL

ARCHITECTS OF AN INTERNET WORLD

The best things in life are in Rome

By Kitty Go

BED set in satin cotton jacquard and fashion comforter in yarn-dyed jacquard from Frette

BETWEEN the areas of Castel Sant' Angelo and the Piazza Navona is the Via dei Coronari. Via dei Coronari is a short street lined with owner-run shops selling antique furnishings and clothing. It sells both European and American vintage goods, and unless you are a true vintage aficionado with an admiration for all things old, beautiful but not necessarily clean or expensive, this is the place for you. Even antique dealers in Piazza di Spagna and the Pantheon scour the Via dei Coronari for merchandise.

The Via dei Coronari forms a V with another funky street called the Via del Governo Vecchio. If Via dei Coronari is the Roman Portobello Road, then Via del Governo Vecchio is its Notting Hill Gate. As the name suggests, La Tavola (Via dei Governo Vecchio, 20A) has everything you need to dress a fabulous table. The long and narrow store is presented in a minimalist setting but has everything you need to create an impressive table such as candles, china, silverware, linen, bowls and other table accessories. There is another shop on the other side of town (on top of the Spanish Steps) called Culti (Via Crispi, 45) which is also done in a minimalist style but has everything for the home from small furniture to bath supplies.

The best things in life are subjective. From useless junk to the most expensive linens, Rome gives you the choice

Antique

Prestigio Interni di Giovanni Papa (Via del Governo Vecchio, 38) is an antique dealer specializing in ceramics. If you like old but not necessarily precious knick-knacks, Cristin Sistina (Via Sistina, 93) is worth a visit although this, too, is on the other side of town atop the Spanish Steps. The owner, Christina, buys from local and American estate sales. Thus, she has a mix of objects uncommon in Italy. She has a small collection of costume brooches which are hard to come by even at the Via dei Coronari and del Governo Vecchio.

Tempi Moderni (Via del Governo Vecchio, 107) is the haven of costume jewelry collectors. The pieces are well maintained or restored; all are of excellent quality. Most, if not all, pieces are signed or stamped. Mado (Via del Governo Vecchio, 89A or www.madonet.com) is a vintage clothing store decorated like a dark '60s lounge. Unlike most vintage stores that are crammed with stuff, Mado has a limited selection that seems to be only from the '40s to the '60s. If printed dresses and Bakelite are your fashion passions, Mado hits the spot.

In between the antique stores is a chic emporium decorated in Baroque style called Arsenale (Via del Governo Vecchio, 63). It sells mostly Costume National, a line known for its minimalist style. Arsenale accessorizes this chic and simple line with ostentatious costume jewelry and sumptuous shawls, showing that there is life beyond minimalism.

Lingerie

You cannot leave Rome without buying at least one set of beautiful lingerie and a set of luxurious linens. Two of the best names in the world are Italian—La Perla and Frette. La Perla (Via Condotti, 78) has swimsuits and underwear of the best quality. Unfortunately, the quality of their customer service is not as good as that of their products. Shopping for lingerie and swimsuits are not the most pleasant and La Perla does nothing to ease that. Instead, the store is run by overly made up sour cows who refuse to let you browse. Another lingerie shop carrying different brands in Emy Funaro (Piazza di Spagna, 79). Some of the silkiest and most intricate night gowns can be found in this tiny shop facing the Spanish Steps.

We spend one third of our lives in bed and if you want to make the most of it, consider linens from Frette (Piazza di Spagna, 11). The line consists of bed linens and towels, bedroom accessories and loungewear. Anything can be custom-made and there is something for everyone. Unlike other European lines which get too frilly or flowery, Frette has something for everyone. From sumptuous lace that would make Queen Victoria swoon to the most discreet patterns Andre Putman would love, everything Frette carries is luxurious and of the highest quality. The Rome store can ship anywhere in the world and you can order by email at nromad@frette.it.

E-mail the author at styledowager@hotmail.com.

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SundayLIFESTYLE

Tight and tense race in National Artist Awards, Gawad Urian

COMPILED BY LITO B. ZULUETA

IT is a tight and tense race for the National Artist Awards, if we are to believe news wafting from the closely guarded halls of the National Commission on Culture and Arts and the Cultural Center of the Philippines which are administering the awards. So tight and tense has the screening of the candidates reportedly been that in some committees, fisticuffs nearly broke out. This was especially true in the Film and Broadcast Arts division where **Tikoy Aguiluz** and **Nick Deocampo** had a heated argument. Apparently, Aguiluz was questioning Deocampo's qualifications to sit in the division. Deocampo, piqued, resigned and stormed out. It is said the list for the division has been shortened to **Eddie Romero** and the late **Ishmael Bernal** (find out tomorrow in the Lifestyle-Arts and Design section whom the division finally endorsed).

The Visual Arts division considered four names—cartoonist **Larry Alcala**, the late **Diosdado Lorenzo, Francisco V. Coching** and expressionist **Ang Kiukok**. The

TIGHT/ p.E3

European ambassadors visit queen city of the South

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

AMBASSADORS from various European nations visited Cebu recently to assess the provence's economic situation, said Swiss Ambassador **Werner Baumann**, who has been here on several other occasions. We would like to think that he returned to Manila with very good impressions.

Markus Stern, Switzerland's honorary consul in Cebu, planned Ambassador Baumann's stay to the minutest detail. There was even a visit to an orchid farm in Moalboal (south of Cebu City) under the care of a Swiss national, **Reto Feuerstein**.

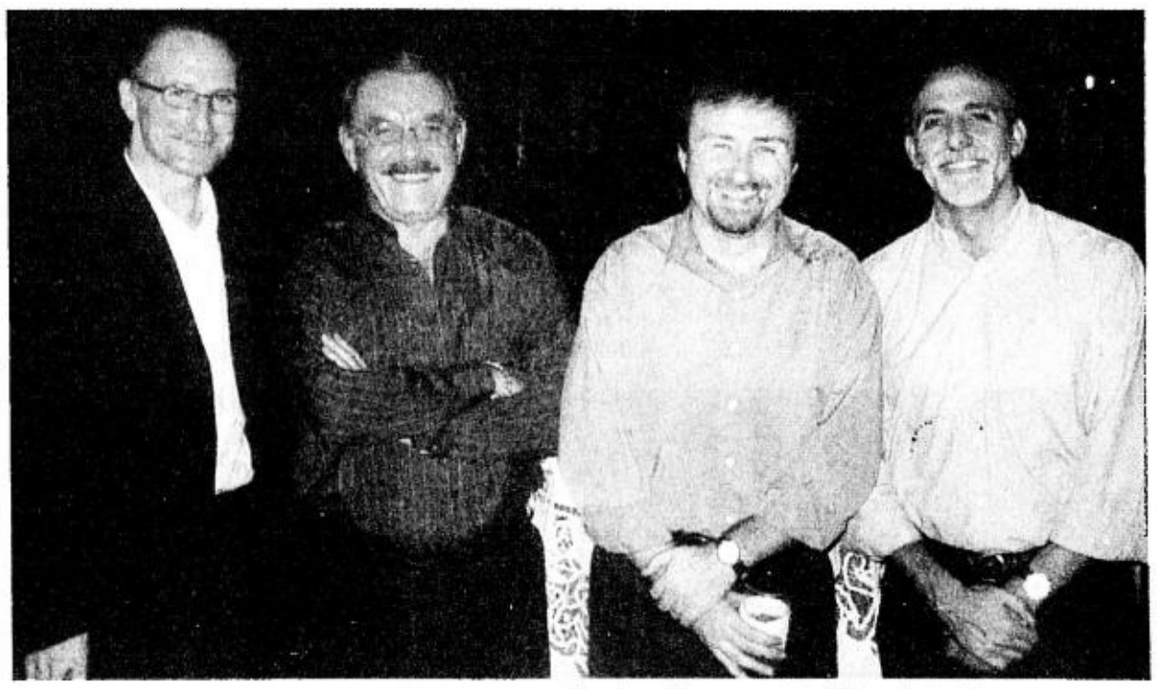
Ambassador Baumann also paid calls on Cebu Gov. **Pablo Garcia**, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry president **Sabino Dapat** and executive director **Dante Araneta**, European Chamber (Cebu) president **Gus Palao**, Cebu Investment Promotions Center chair **Edgar Godinez** and managing director **Joel Yu**.

There was a dinner hosted by Ambassador Baumann at the elegant and newly inaugurated dining salon of Europa Deli. With him were attaché **Alberto Groff** and **Melanie Isip**, commercial officer of the Swiss embassy. Swiss wines of exquisite vintage were served with an equally excellent menu. Chef **Dario Amparo** was called forth to receive the applause of guests and a Swatch watch from Ambassador Baumann.

Denmark Ambassador **Peter Rosting** came to Cebu to confer the Knighthood of the Order of the Dannebrog on **Ben Dapat**, the Royal Danish consul ad honorem in Cebu. It was granted by Her Majesty Queen **Margarethe II** of Denmark for the exceptional services Dapat rendered during his tenure.

The ceremonies were held during an elegant reception at the ballroom of the Cebu City Marriott Hotel, where Ambassador Rosting delivered a most eloquent speech, and Dapat quipped in his acceptance speech that finally he had been so honored. It was a most convivial party, as the Danes and the Filipinos, especially those who live in Cebu, are well known for their sense of humor.

Also in Cebu at the time was German Ambassador **Herbert Jess** who gave a reception for the German community in Cebu at the Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort.



FELIX Blanco of Instituto Cervantes, Raul Urra, Javier Herrera and Jose Chicharro

Among the guests were **Reinard** and **Pilar Paichrowski**, who had been with Ambassador Jess at a previous posting in Beijing. Walking around the garden of the Shangri-La on a moonlit evening, they chanced upon Ambassador Jess who was indeed happy to invoke that adage about the world being so small.

Reinhard and Pilar are still posted in Beijing, he taking care of protocol at the German embassy there. They were in Manila for three years since 1994 and they had come to Cebu to stay at the Shangri-La on several occasions. They also made many friends here, so that this recent visit was like a homecoming. They dined on Spanish specialties at Casino Español, Italian pasta at Va Bene and seafood platters at Café Laguna. They also visited the Sto. Niño to say a prayer. Reinhard is from Bavaria while Pilar is from Spain. They have a home in Murcia, close to the residence of former Spanish Ambassador **Herminio Morales** and his wife **Maria Dolores**.

The new Spanish ambassador, Don **Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja**, has expressed his desire to visit Cebu when the opportunity comes. We did fly to Manila for a day to meet him, at the cocktail party hosted by the Spanish embassy's deputy head of mission **Aranzazu Bañon de Herrera** and consul general **Javier Herrera**. It was held at their home in Dasmariñas Village.

Camera in hand, we took pictures at random and used them today.

PILAR Aguilar de Paichrowski, German Ambassador Herbert Jess and consul Reinhard Paichrowski of the German embassy in Beijing

SPANISH Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja, deputy head of mission Aranzazu Bañon de Herrera and consul general Javier Herrera

THE SPANISH embassy's commercial counselor Oscar Via, attaché Jose Luis del Barco and development aid counselor Victor Guasch

AMBASSADOR Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja and Pilina Berenguer de Rocha

RESTO-ROUNDS

National Sports Grill: where excellent food and sports events meet

National SPORTS GRILL

Want to have fun, enjoy good food, and witness your favorite major sports events with family and friends – all in just one place? Then, the National Sports Grill (NSG) is the place for you.

Barely a few weeks since its opening, this sports-themed restaurant at the 3rd level of the Greenbelt Mall in Makati City has been getting positive response not only from sports aficionados but from avid diners as well.

Sports fanatics will definitely appreciate the NSG – the local franchise of the acclaimed "Undisputed King of Sports Grill" in Southern California. Larger-than-life memorabilia of sports icons like Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Larry Bird and Steffi Graf, including current stars such as young tennis sensations Anna Kournikova and Martina Hingis adorn the walls of the five-level restaurant.

According to the NSG Asia Ltd.'s chief executive officer Alfonso Zamora, the American-style restaurant aspires to be the preferred venue for watching the world's major sporting events. With 31 color TV monitors, customers can have a grand time watching live telecasts of today's biggest sports spectacles or even those classic games from decades back. In fact, the NSG recently featured the Super Bowl. Last Feb. 12, it also showed the live NBA All-Star games straight from the MCI Center in Washington, D.C. In March, Formula 1 die-hards can also watch the televised races at NSG.

Good food at its finest

But don't be deceived. More than its sporty ambience and quality service, the NSG is a fine dining center that offers an excellent menu catering to the discriminating palate.

When it comes to mouthwatering American fares, the NSG is the restaurant to beat. Its all-natural food preparations carry huge American servings which customers find more than satisfying.

If you are fond of finger foods, the Home Run Sampler is for you. For only P495, the Home Run Sampler is a platter-full of delicious goodies: Gold Medal chicken wings, taquitos, fried mozzarella sticks, seasoned fries, onion rings and tortilla chips. Served with marinara sauce, queso and ranch, this menu is truly a feast for the senses.

Of course, when you say American food, burgers and fries will never be out of the picture. "The San Francisco Burger is different because it is not in a bun," NSG's PR consultant Tony Alayde quipped. This merienda delight comes in thick sourdough Parmesan bread with garden-fresh lettuce, tomato, bacon, grilled onions and B.B.Q sauce. When asked about the house specialty, Zamora quickly retorts: "For me, it's the french fries." Sprinkled with a secret spice, their french fries is really something to die-for.

For salad-lovers, the Surfer Salad is a sure winner. With grilled marinated tuna strips, this special menu is served with mixed salad greens, diced tomatoes, black olives, cilantro, green onions and cucumbers. To complete its unique taste, it is also tossed with sesame dressing and topped with fetta cheese.

The Pastrami Open is another dish in the NSG menu that is worth sampling. Served with crispy french fries on the side, this special sandwich serving is composed of a 1/2 lb. pastrami stuffed in a French roll with lettuce, tomato, pickle slice, mustard and vinaigrette dressing.

If you want something different this time, try the Tequila Chicken Penne. This penne pasta, tossed in zesty tequila cream sauce with red bell pepper, red onion and jalapenos, is topped with blackened chicken and fresh cilantro. Are you salivating already?

For desserts, the Choco Mudd Pie (P165), Tiramisu Cheesecake (P255), Oreo Slugger Cheesecake (P255) and the Grand Prix Cheesecake (P285) are "sinful" pleasures which promise to either ignite your saccharine craving or ruin your diet altogether.

And to wash it all down, Lipton Ice Tea is the perfect drink to complement your ordered dishes. As the official powdered iced tea provider of NSG, Lipton Ice Tea's classic lemon flavor is sure to bring in the right refreshing taste perfect for your dining experience. A bottomless Lipton Ice Tea drink costs P65 only. Incidentally, Lipton Ice Tea has also launched new flavor innovations – Honeymansi and Four Seasons. These exciting flavors are guaranteed to totally change the prevailing taste in the local iced tea market.

84-inch jumbotron

With a seating capacity of over 500 in a 1,200 sq. m. area, visitors can also have a grand time choosing their favored spot within the venue – perhaps adjacent to their sports idol's memorabilia. They can likewise be seated near the three-sided 84-inch jumbotron found at the 4th level wherein customers can have a better view of the sports event being shown on screen. Or if they want to take it easy, the billiard center at the third level provides a perfect opportunity to while away the hours with your pals.

Smart and friendly waiters and waitresses, clad in baseball jerseys, greet visitors upon entry into this dining haven. A wide array of local and imported wines and beverages are available at the restaurant's bar located just a few steps away from the main door. Novelty items bearing sports team logos such as caps, mugs, pins, keychains, etc. are also being sold as souvenirs after dining. NSG also offers special packages for corporate gatherings.

So what are you waiting for? Rush now to the 3rd level of the Greenbelt Mall and bring along your pals to the NSG. Taste and see for yourselves its American-renowned dishes which can give other restaurants in the area a run for their money.

The "Resto-Rounds" series is being brought to you by Lipton Ice Tea – the perfect partner for any dining experience.

Tight and tense race in National Artist Awards, Gawad Urian

(From page E1)

Theater division evaluated three candidates—**Zeneida Amador, Amelia Lapena Bonifacio** and the late **Severino Montano**. In Dance, the contenders were **Maniya Barredo, Corazon Iñigo** and **Ramon Obusan**. In Music, in contention were **Fides Cuyugan-Asensio, Alfredo Buenaventura, Gilopez Kabayao** and **Natividad "Nena" del Rosario-Villanueva**. In Architecture, the choices were narrowed down to **Cesar Concio** and the late **Guillermo "Wili" Fernandez**. The Literature division considered four writers—the late great Tagalog novelist **Lazaro Francisco, Juan Hidalgo, Ramon Munzones** and Ramon Magsaysay awardee **F. Sionil Jose**.

Writers are particularly interested in the next National Artist for Literature. Will Jose, the country's most translated writer abroad, finally make it? Or will the final decision-makers opt not to award the title this year? Jose has more than the usual share of partisans who believe he should have gotten the award a long time ago as well as enemies who believe his name should not have been considered in the first place.

Critics' choice

A TIGHT race is also expected in the Gawad Urian, the annual movie awards given out by the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino. Four movies are in the running for best picture—"Tanging Yaman," "Tuhog," "Laro Sa Baga" and "Deathrow." Although "Tuhog" was commercially released only last month, it qualified for the nomination because it was shown to paying audiences last year in special previews.

Gloria Romero, the matriarch suffering from Alzheimer's disease in "Tanging Yaman," is the leading contender for best actress. But **Ina Raymundo** and **Irma Adlawan**, mother and daughter who see their painful experience trivialized by cinema in "Tuhog," may pull a surprise. **Alessandra da Rossi**, the young incest victim in "Azucena," and **Vilma Santos** as the homecoming mother in last year's biggest hit, "Anak," are also strong contenders.

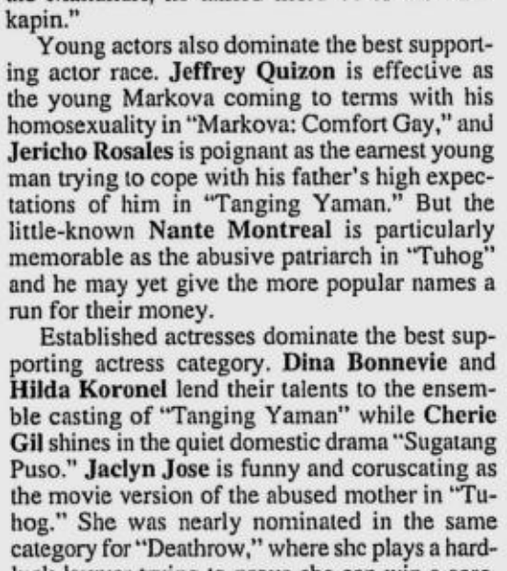
Perhaps the race for best actor is even tighter, what with **Dolphy** (the transvestite raped by Japanese soldiers in "Markova: Comfort Gay), **Eddie Garcia** (the death-row prisoner in "Deathrow"), **Dante Rivero** (the kind-hearted dog-meat seller in "Azucena") and **Johnny Delgado** (the reforming prodigal son in "Tanging Yaman") in the running.

But the young actors may spoil the fight for the veterans. **Piolo Pascual** is affecting as the innocent young man in "Lagarista" and many say he is the brightest actor of his generation. **Carlos Morales**, the representative young Pinoy macho in "Laro sa Baga," is getting strong buzz. Ditto with sweet-16 Cogie Domingo, the drug-crazed youth in "Yakapin Ang Maga." In fact, Cogie was almost nominated in the same category for his role as the minor facing execution in "Deathrow." But in the elimination by the Manunuri, he tallied more votes for "Yakapin."

Young actors also dominate the best supporting actor race. **Jeffrey Quizon** is effective as the young Markova coming to terms with his homosexuality in "Markova: Comfort Gay," and **Jericho Rosales** is poignant as the earnest young man trying to cope with his father's high expectations of him in "Tanging Yaman." But the little-known **Nante Montreal** is particularly memorable as the abusive patriarch in "Tuhog" and he may yet give the more popular names a run for their money.

Established actresses dominate the best supporting actress category. **Dina Bonnevie** and **Hilda Koronel** lend their talents to the ensemble casting of "Tanging Yaman" while **Cherie Gil** shines in the quiet domestic drama "Sugatang Puso." **Jaclyn Jose** is funny and coruscating as the movie version of the abused mother in "Tuhog." She was nearly nominated in the same category for "Deathrow," where she plays a hard-luck lawyer trying to prove she can win a case, but in the elimination, the Manunuri decided to nominate her for "Tuhog."

The awards will be handed out in colorful ceremonies on March 24 at the UP Theater. The show will be mounted by Airtime Marketing and broadcast on RPN 9. Emcees include **Richard Gomez, Dingdong Dantes** and Piolo Pascual.



GLORIA Romero leads best actress nominees

JACLYN Jose, perennial nominee

CARLOS Morales: Powerful performance in "Laro sa Baga"

GMA gets arts-oriented

IT was heartening to see **President Macapagal Arroyo**, together with daughter **Luli** and former CCP president **Baltazar Endriga**, attending a special presentation of Ballet Philippines at the Republic of Malate. The show, "The Eight Neo-Filipino Series: Sama-Sama: Dance and Video," consisted of three parts: "Lipstick," a reading by poet and production designer **Salvador Bernal**, "In Sense" and "News Dreams."

The last was particularly much applauded. It was choreographed by **Paul Morales** and video-directed by **Butch Perez** with costume by **Iñigo Elizalde**. Showcasing **Camille Ordinario**, "News Dreams" was a dance video piece on the role of television in Philippine society.

It was certainly encouraging for the arts and dance community to see a President taking the time out from her busy schedule to show her appreciation of the arts. **Denisa Reyes**, BP's artistic director, was beaming with pride.

WILL F. Sionil Jose make it finally?

NICK Deocampo: Clash with Tikoy Aguiluz

COGIE Domingo: A best actor at sweet 16?

INA Raymundo: Strong contender for best actress

DINGDONG Dantes: Gawad Urian host

MANIYA Barredo: New National Artist for Dance?

PIOLO Pascual: Best actor contender for "Lagarista"

CESAR Concio: National Artist for Architecture nominee

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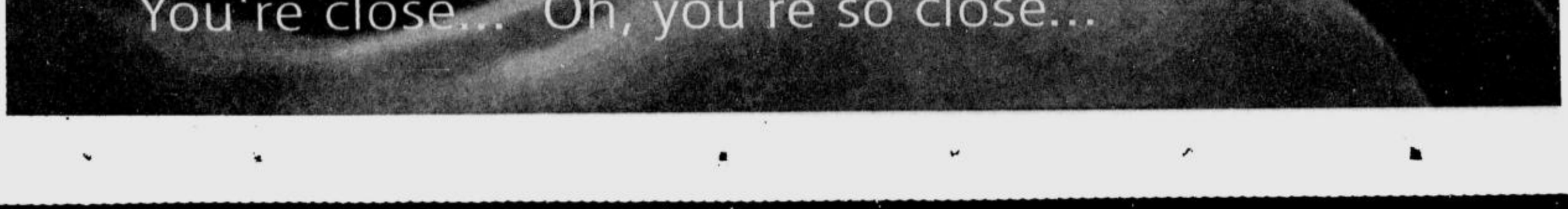


ACCESSORIES for the home and body

MUSIC and candlelight

The power of scent and light

FEAST FOR THE SENSES. Burners and aromatherapy oils

Regenere offers candles that not only light up the dark corners of your stressed-out soul, but also fill them with restful scents

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

ELIZABETH Seim knows all about stress. There was a time in her life when she would get terribly ill, be hospitalized for various ailments and undergo surgery, all because of stress-related illnesses. "It was a clear case of my not being happy with what I was doing and my doctor told me the illnesses I had were all due to stress," she recalls.

Beth had just migrated to the United States at that time, in the mid-'80s, and landed a job that she was not all too happy about. The sadness and stress began to manifest in her body. "Soon I became too ill to do anything at all."

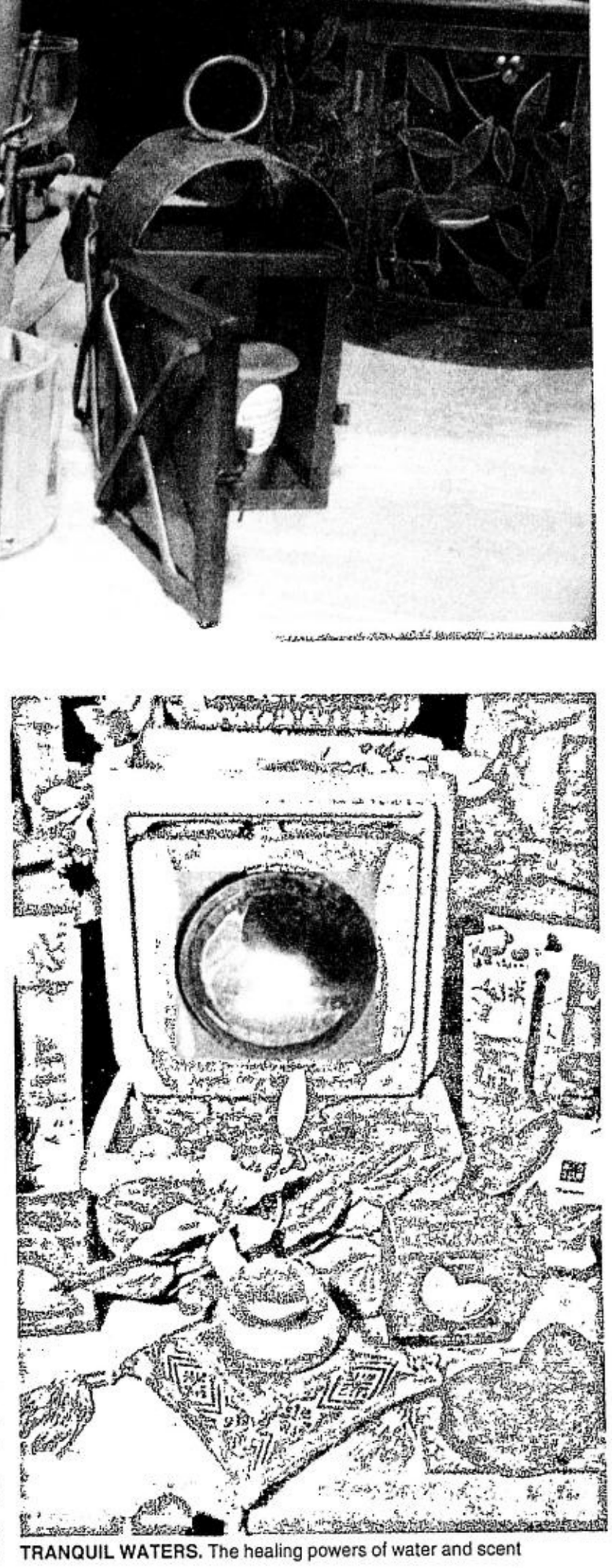
Taking a hiatus from work, she discovered the soothing power of candles. From then on, she was hooked on candles.

During birthdays and anniversaries, Beth would request friends and family to gift her with candles. "Plants would somehow always die on me, but candles would really get me all excited," she says.

Enjoying the break from work, she thought about quitting her day job to go into business. "My husband told me I should go into a business which I truly loved. At that time it was candles." In 1992, she opened her first kiosk in a Santa Clara (California) mall where she initially took a lot of criticisms. "People were saying at the time, who is going to buy candles?"

But in six months, business was brisk and suddenly candles became the big thing all over the US. However, when the larger candle stores

THE POWER/ p.E5



TRANQUIL WATERS. The healing powers of water and scent

The power of scent and light

(From page E4)

began to open in the mall, Beth decided to close her little shop and bring the business to the Philippines.

In 1996, she opened the first Candles and Scents store at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Five years and four stores later, Beth has decided to embark on an upscale aromatherapy-cum-candle shop called Regenere, a store that delights the senses and renews the spirit of all who step in it.

"This," Beth says as she looks around her shop, "is really a dream come true."

Feast for the senses

A visit to Regenere is both relaxing and invigorating. Soft music fills the air and the heady scent coming from various oils and candles fills one's being. At strategic corners within the store are small fountains, whose gentle waters calm one's soul.

On one side is a music center filled with CDs of soft, gentle music (piano, flute, harp) that one can pray or meditate to. At the other end of the store is an aroma center which has every kind of essential oil that you could imagine—lavender, bergamot, rose, eucalyptus, lemongrass, chamomile, patchouli, peppermint—name it, they probably have it. Wooden shelves line this lovely, tranquil store filled with aromatherapy candles of various shapes, sizes, scents and hues.

"Most of the candles sold here are exclusive to the store," Beth tells us, "and they are of very good quality, many of them are top of the line." Indeed Beth is a candle connoisseur, and she individually tests each product sold in the store. Selecting from hundreds can be tedious but it is a task she fully enjoys. Browsing through the multicolored candles that line the shelves, she tells us that the best way to tell if a candle is of good quality is to check its "creaminess and consistency." "Look at the top, feel it," Beth says. "The really hard candles are basically all paraffin and cost much less as compared to those where essential oils are not spared. Note the certain creaminess to the top of the candle."

Beth also advises buyers to smell the bottom of the candle. "That way you'll know if they skimped on the oils. If it smells good at the bottom, you'll know that the scent will last until the candle burns out."

Extensive line

Regenere has one of the most extensive candle lines in Metro Manila. There are roughly about 20 different brands, many of which only the store carries.

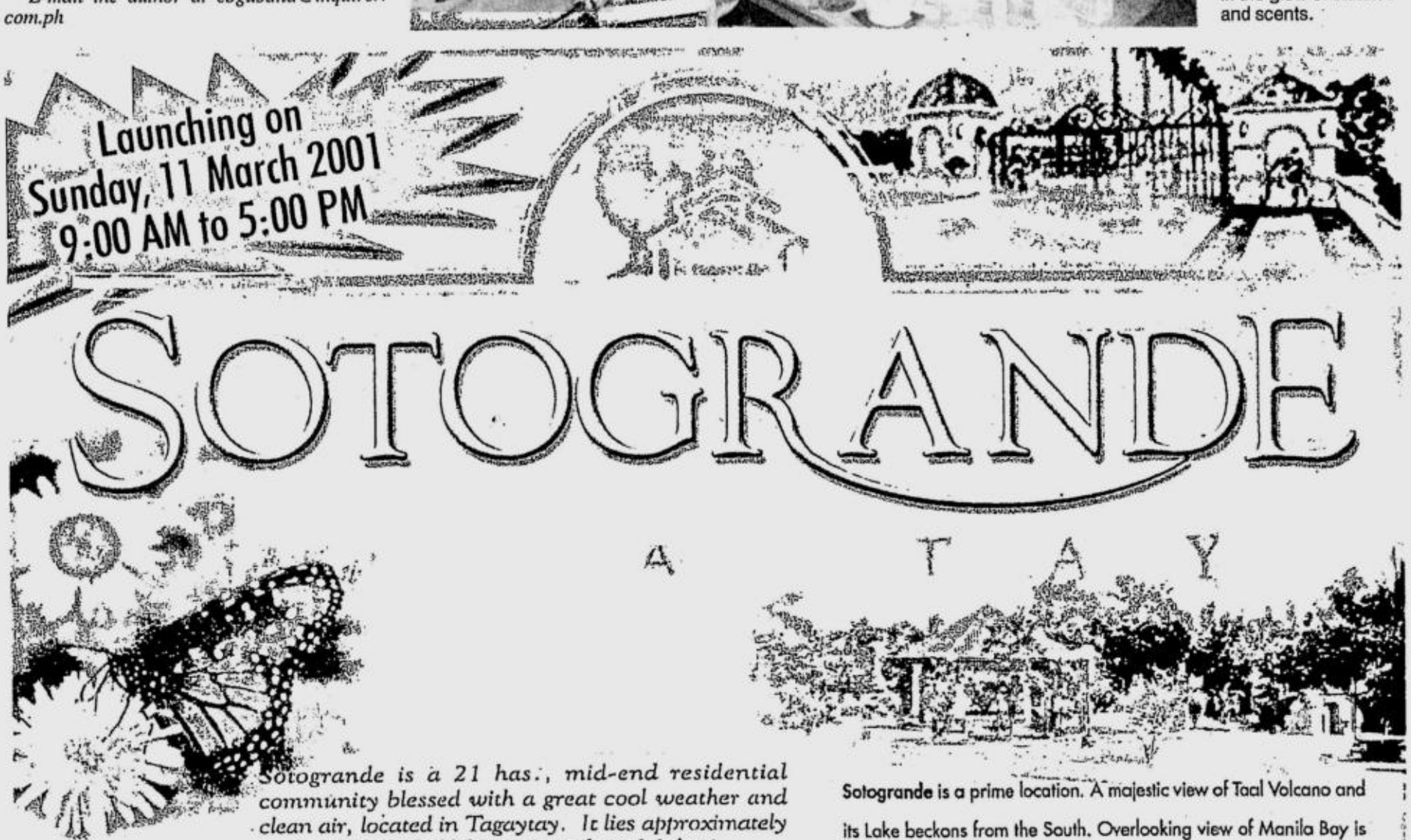
And candles are not all they have—soaps, bath creams, salts, lotions and gels are also for sale. There is home line to fill your home with such heavenly scents. "Everything here is related to the art of aromatherapy," she says. Thus, all the candles in the store contain essential oils, which are activated and released when the candles are burned, providing therapeutic benefits. "These are not just ordinary scents. They stimulate the olfactory system, triggering a variety of powerful responses in the brain. For example, lemongrass is uplifting, while eucalyptus is refreshing, peppermint is perfect for headaches and mental fatigue," Beth explains.

It's difficult to come out of Regenere and not buy a single candle. "I find that people want to take home even a small piece of the scent," Beth smiles. Best of all, Regenere offers a money-back guarantee. "I always tell my customers that if they're not happy with the product they can always bring it back and I'll give them a refund." That's how sure she is of the quality of her merchandise and the powers of scent and light. "Plus, I only want my customers to be happy. I don't want to give them any undue stress," she says with a laugh! That's perfect assurance from one who has known the s-word all too well. Here's to long baths, gentle music and starlit nights. Now if I can only find that peppermint candle.

Regenere is located at the 4/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall

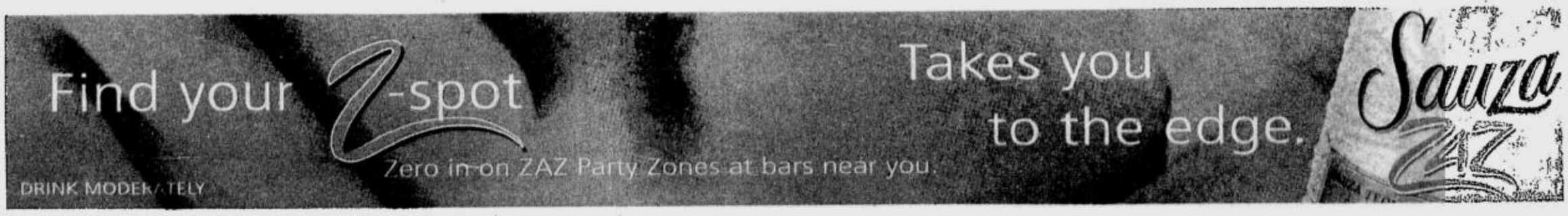
E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

CANDLE CONNOISSEUR. Elizabeth Seim basks in the glow of candles and scents.



CANDLEHOLDERS in metal and wrought iron

A BASKET of scents for the home



Prayers for Lent

MUSTARD SEED

Joseph Galdon, S.J.

LENT is really a good time for us to improve our lives in love and holiness as we prepare for the death of Jesus out of love for us and to forgive us our sins. His resurrection from the dead and His sending of the Holy Spirit will help us to be holier people here on earth.

On Ash Wednesday, the priest puts blessed ashes on our forehead and says to us: "Turn away from sins and listen to the Gospel. Listen to God!" That is a reminder that we must improve our lives during Lent.

Lent teaches us that we ought to listen to the Lord, turn away from sin, make sacrifices to God and turn to holiness. Lent is also a good time for us to pray. There are several very nice prayers to offer to God during Lent in order to turn away from sin and be holy.

Praise and glory to the Lord

In Lent, in order to be holy, it is good for us to praise and give glory to the Lord. The Book of Psalms says we should give glory and praise to God who gives light to our days. Many are the blessings that He gives us. In the wisdom of the Holy Spirit God also gives strength to us every minute of the day. God is always waiting to save us. He's always ready to answer those who pray.

A very good prayer of praise and glory is in Psalm 8. It says: "In all my days, oh Lord, I will bless Your name. I will sing You praise and give You thanks. All my days, oh Lord, You have lavished my heart with Your love. You've clothed me with dignity and honor. You have blessed me with good things and plenty and surrounded my table with friends. Their love and their joy enrich me, so together we sing Your praise. Your sun and Your moon give us light and holiness, and Your stars show us the way through the night of sin. Your rivers and Your streams have refreshed me and so I will sing Your praise and glory.

Psalm 57 says we also ought to give thanks to the Lord. It says: "I will give thanks to Thee, oh Lord, among all the people and among all the nations. For Thy love for us is great." Let us be sure that we pray that way to God this Lent. "We give you praise and glory and thanks, oh Lord, for You have given so much love."

Do not be afraid

Isaiah says we should not be afraid so that we will be holy. Isaiah's thought is also a good prayer for our holiness in Lent. Isaiah says: "We shall cross the barren desert but we shall not die of thirst. We shall wonder far in safety even though we do not know the way, because we shall see the face of God and live in holiness."

God says: "Do not be afraid because I am always walking in front of you and I will always give you help. If you pass in raging water, you shall not drown. If you walk amid burning flames, you will not be harmed. If death is at your side, know that I am near you." Not to be afraid is another good lesson in Lent.

Psalm 89 says we should not be afraid. We should be happy because of God. "Happy is the one who walks in God's way. The Lord will shine on him or her like a lamp that lights the dark." That is God's holiness.

Holiness

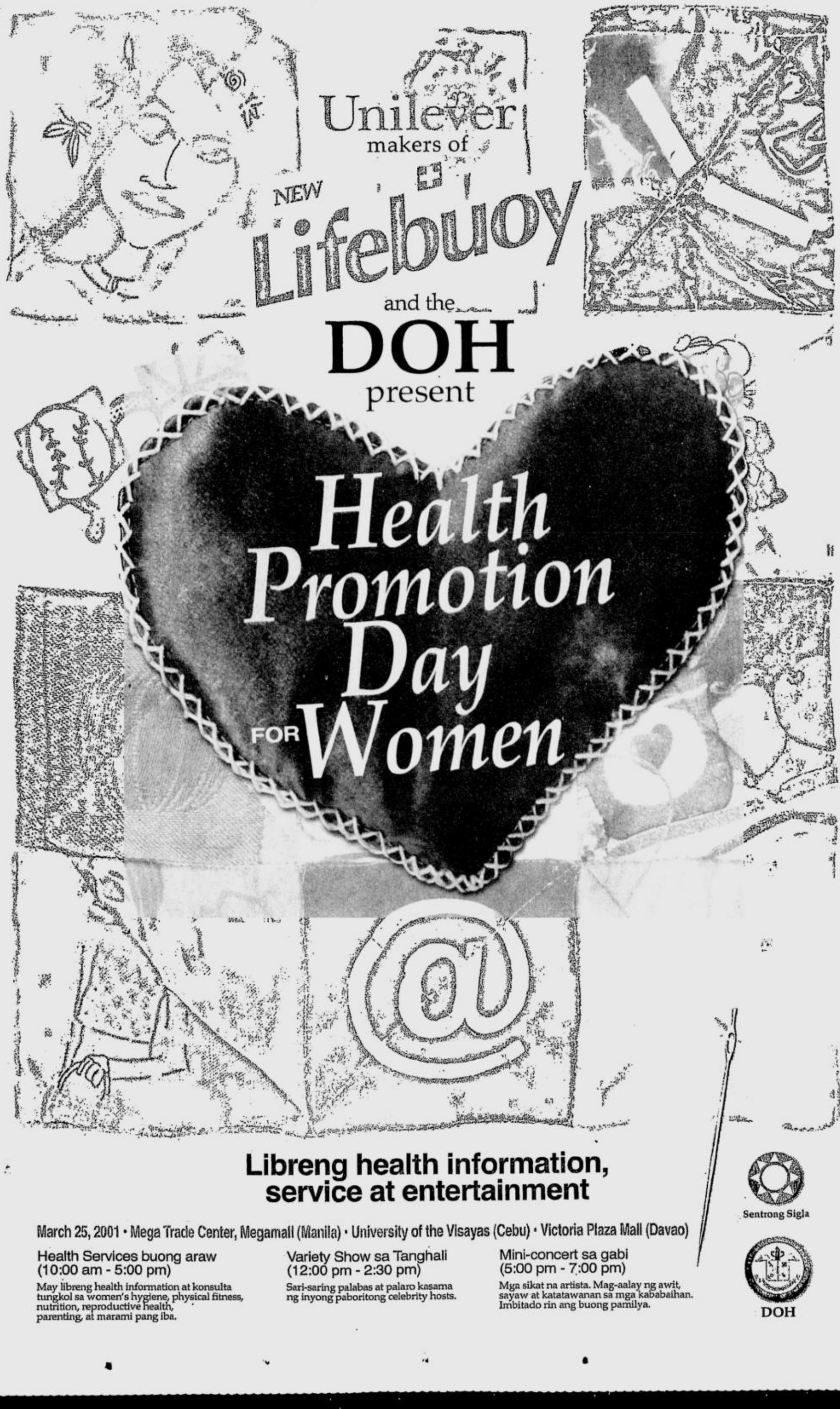
The other good prayer for Lent is the prayer of holiness in Psalm 26. It says: "To you, Lord, I lift up my soul. Teach me Your path and keep me on the ways of Your teaching. For You are God who loves me and saves me especially in Lent." The good song for us is "Here I am, Lord. This Lent I will go, Lord, where You lead me and where You need me. I will hold Your people in my heart."

Another good prayer to make Lent holy is the prayer of St. Ignatius: "Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous. Teach me to serve You as I should—to give and not to count the cost, to fight for holiness and not to heed the words of those against holiness, to labor for You and not to ask for financial reward, but only for love, to always know I am doing Your will, Lord." That is a good prayer for Lent—to be generous and holy and to love.

We are made for service

Lent reminds us that we are made for service, to care for all men and women. We are made for love both time and again, a love that will live through sorrow and pain, a love that will never die with strain. Lent reminds us that God sent His Son to show us the way to love. He gave us His life on the cross that we may love and He sent us His Holy Spirit to help us through the years.

Let us make Lent a very good one in our prayers. "Take and receive, oh Lord, my liberty. Take all my will, my mind and my memory. All things I have and all I am are yours. Do thou direct and govern me, oh Lord, all the way to love and holiness in this season of Lent and also all the year.



On giving second chances

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I've been married for five years but only spent about seven months with my husband because I work here in the United States. We got secretly married in 1995 before I came here. I went back there in 1997 and we had a church wedding with my parents' blessing. I was very happy and couldn't ask for more.

In 1998, in our long-distance phone talk, my husband confessed to me that in 1996, a year after we got married, he had an affair with his former girlfriend. I felt betrayed. Since then we have been arguing in our letters and phone calls. Our marriage is in limbo. A part of me wants to let go while another part of me tells me to hang on to our marriage vows.

I have petitioned for him to join me here and he's processing his papers. I am hoping that things will improve once he's here, but I'm no longer sure if he loves me. A faith healer consulted by my aunt said my husband is now living with that woman, and getting him to join me here will only give me heartaches. I've never been so devastated.

I vowed to love him till death, but because of what is happening, I have been in and out of a depression. The only thing that keeps me going is my faith in God.

Is it worth loving this man and hanging on to our marriage?

TINNA

If he has the courage and honesty to confess the affair to you, then he's probably a man who—despite the affair—still has a good dose of integrity left in him. To me, such a man would not have the heart to fool his legal wife for long. Sooner than later, the conscience kicks in and takes over such men, which, to me, would mean he would end the affair.

So if he is indeed processing his petition papers, I would take that to mean that he still wants to be united with you. And if he feels that way, then it suggests that he will cut his ties with that woman as he does not truly love her.

If as I understand it, he committed an extramarital act just once and there is no longer an affair, then I suggest clemency for your husband.

I think vows are made an integral part of weddings precisely because any marriage will almost certainly be challenged by betrayal in one form or another. The vows are there not only to ward off betrayals but also to compel the spouses to hold up their marriage when betrayals do happen. No one then should declare her or his marriage dead just because it has been assaulted once.

His studies or his love?

I'M 22, a working student and in the third year of my computer science course. My problem is how to balance my studies, work and love life.

When Lynn came into my life, I broke my promise to myself that I won't have a girlfriend until after I graduated. She's only 17, acts immature most of the time, refuses to understand my position when we have disagreements, and gives me financial problems because she likes "happenings."

Whenever we quarrel, she threatens to go back to her previous boyfriend, the guy who took her virginity. They still see each other casually. I believe that she loves me, although sometimes her mind seems to shift from me to him.

I'm thinking of quitting school for a while next year, but I'm having second thoughts because I only have a few subjects left to take before graduating. I'm working as a school driver and I don't have to pay for my tuition.

To which should I give priority—my love life or my studies?

REY

If we will ask all adult and sober people in your barangay to vote on it, I'm sure your studies will win hands down as deserving first priority.

I have no doubt that you are deeply in love with her. But the question is, does Lynn truly love you? I doubt if even she herself is sure.

If you were not a working student, and if you were sure that you could get high grades despite the distractions that Lynn brings, I'd say go ahead—go on loving Lynn and patiently help her mature. But, as your need to make a choice now implies, you don't have those luxuries. Lynn herself is a luxury and, under the situation, she's one luxury you can't afford.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Jesus visits Peter's house in Bethsaida

COMPILED BY TELLY ALBERT ZULUETA

MARIA Valtorta, a religious woman to whom Our Lord granted to see some visions, writes:

"John goes to the house where Jesus is a guest and says: 'I have come to tell You that Peter asks You to pass by Bethsaida (PDI Lifestyle, 02/04/01). He has spoken to many people about you. We did not go fishing last night. And this morning we went through the streets speaking about You. There are many people who would like to hear You. Will You come, Master?

"'I will, although I must go to Nazareth before going to Jerusalem.'

"Jesus takes His mantle and haversack. They are talking but I do not hear them because the vision is interrupted and resumed only when they are entering Bethsaida. I realize it is Bethsaida because I see Peter, Andrew and James with their wives awaiting Jesus at the entrance to the village.

"'Peace be with you. Here I am.'"

"'We thank You, Master, and also on behalf of those who are waiting. It is not the Sabbath yet so will You speak to those waiting to hear you?'

"'Yes, Peter, I will, in your house.'

"Peter is overjoyed. 'Come then. This is my wife and this is John's mother and these are our friends, but there are other people waiting.'

"'Tell them I will speak to them this evening before I leave.'

"'Master, stay one night at my house. The road to Jerusalem is a long one even if I will shorten it for You by taking You by boat. My house is poor but honest and friendly. Stay with us tonight.'

"Jesus looks at Peter and at all the rest who are with them. He looks at them, smiles and says, 'Yes, I will stay.'

"It is a greater joy for Peter. People look out from their doors and exchange knowing glances with one another. They go into Peter's house. There is a large, smoky kitchen in a corner. There are nets, ropes, fishing baskets. In the middle there is a low fireplace but there is no fire. Through two opposite doors, one can see the street on one side and the kitchen garden with a fig tree and vines on the other side.

"'I offer you what I have, Master, and as best as I know how to.'

"'You could not offer any more or any better because you are making your offering with love.'

"They give Jesus some water to refresh Himself, and then some bread and olives. Jesus takes a few mouthfuls only to please him. Then he thanks him and eats no more.

"Some children look in from the kitchen and from the street. I do not know whether they are Peter's children. I only know he frowns at the intruders to keep them out. Jesus smiles and says: 'Let them alone.'

"'Master, do You want to rest? My room is here and Andrews' is over there. Take Your choice. We will not make any noise while you are resting.'

"Jesus asks: 'Have you got a terrace?'

"'Yes, and the vine there gives a little shade.'

"'Then take me up there. I prefer to rest there. I will think and pray.'

"'As you wish. Come.'

"A little staircase rises from the kitchen-garden up to the roof, which is a terrace surrounded by a low wall. How much bright light and what a beautiful view of the blue lake.

"Jesus sits on a stool, leaning His back against the little wall. Peter bustles with a sail, which he spreads over and on the side of the vine to make a shield against the sun. There is a breeze and silence and Jesus is visibly happy. 'I am going, Master.'

"'Go. Go with John and tell people I will be speaking here at sunset.' Jesus remains alone and prays for a long time. The hours pass peacefully and quietly.

"Then Jesus stands up round the terrace, looks at the lake, smiles at the children playing in the street and they smile back at Him. He looks at the street toward the little square about a hundred yards away from the house. He goes downstairs. He looks into the kitchen: 'Woman, I am going for a walk on the shore.'

"He goes out and walks to the beach near the children. He asks them, 'What are you doing?'

"'We wanted to play at war. But he (pointing to a little boy) does not want to and so we are playing at fishing.'

"The boy who does not want to play at war is a frail little fellow who knows that because he is frail, he would get a beating in making 'war' and so he pleads for peace.

"Jesus takes the opportunity to speak to the children. 'He is right. War is a punishment of God to chastise men. It is a sign that man is no longer a true son of God. When the Most High created the world, He made all things: the sun, the sea, the stars, the rivers, the plants, the animals.

"'When God created man, He gave him eyes that he might cast loving glances and a mouth to utter loving words. And ears to listen to such words, and hands to give help and to caress, and feet to run fast to assist our neighbors in need, and a heart capable of loving. He gave man intelligence, speech, affection and taste. But He did not give man hatred. Why? Because man is a creature of God and was to be loved as God is Love.

"'If man had remained a creature of God, he would have persevered in love and the human family would not have known either war or death.'

"The children say, pointing to the little fellow: 'He does not want to play war because he always loses.'

"Jesus answers: 'We must not reprove what is harmful simply because it is hurtful to us. We must reprove a thing when it is harmful to everybody. The good child of God says: 'Brothers, let us not do that because we all would suffer a loss.'

"Jesus then asks: 'Who can tell me what is the main precept?'

"The 10 mouths say together: 'You shall love your God with all your strength and your neighbor as yourself.'

"'Oh! You are clever children. Do you all go to school?'

"'Yes, we do.'

"'Who is the most clever?'

"'Him.' It is the bail little fellow who does not want war.

"'What is your name?'

"'Joel.'

"'A great name! Let the weakling say: 'I am strong.' But strong in what? In the law of the true God, to be among those whom in the Valley of Decision God will judge to be His saints. But the judgement is already near.

"'Not in the Valley of Decision but on the Mountain of Redemption. And the whole of Israel will know that its God has come. Happy are those who will have recognized Him. Honey, milk and fresh water will descend into their hearts; thorns will become eternal roses. Which of you wants to be among those who will be judged saints of God?'

"They all shout, 'I, I, I.'

"'Will you love the Messiah, then?'

"'Yes, yes, yes. We know who You are. Simon and James have told our parents and our mothers have told us. Take us with You.'

"'Yes, I will take you, if you are good. No more bad words, no more arrogance, quarrels, no answering back to your parents. Prayer, study, work, obedience. And I will love you and come with you.'

"The children are all round Jesus.

"An elderly man goes near the group. Jesus turns round to caress a child who is pulling his mantle and Jesus sees him. The man blushes and greets Him but does not say anything else.

"Jesus says; 'Come. Follow Me.'

"'Yes, Master.'

"Jesus blesses the children and walks beside the man (who turns out to be Philip), they go back to Peter's house. He and Philip sit in the little kitchen-garden.

"'Do you want to be My disciple?'

"'Yes, I do, but I did not hope for so much.'

"'I have called you.'

"'Then I am Your disciple. Here I am!'

"'Did you know about Me?'

"'Andrew spoke to me about You. He knew I had been yearning for the Messiah!'

"'Your expectation has not been disappointed. The Master is in front of you.'

"'My Master and my God!'

"'You are a well-intentioned Israelite. That is why I am manifesting Myself to you. Another friend of yours is waiting. He is also a sincere Israelite. Go and say to him: 'We have found Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph of the House of the David, He of Whom Moses and the prophets have spoken.' Go!'

"Jesus remains alone until Philip comes back with Nathaniel-Bartholomew.

To be continued next week

UST alumni to be honored

DISTINGUISHED Thomasians will be cited in The Outstanding Thomasian Alumni (Total) Awards on March 14, 9 a.m., at the Medicine Auditorium of the University of Santo Tomas.

The awards recognize the exemplary achievements in various fields and disciplines of alumni of Asia's oldest university and the world's largest Catholic university. They were organized by the UST Alumni Association Inc. and the UST administration through the UST Office of Alumni and Public Affairs.

This year, the 390-year-old University will honor Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines president Dr. Tito Torralba (medicine), glass sculptor Ramon Orlina (visual arts), UST Medical Missions Inc. president Dr. William Olalia (community services), architect Jorge Ramos (architecture), fictionist F. Sionil Jose (humanities), UST Faculty of Pharmacy Dean Rosalinda Solevila (health-allied), ABC Group of Co. president Timmy Chong Ong, Southeast Asia Wushu Federation founding president Benito Lim (sports), library science expert Candida Agcaoili (education), renowned pianist Reynaldo Reyes (music) and Supreme Court Associate Justice Angelina Gutierrez (law).

Other awardees include Tony Tan Caktiong of Jollibee (business), maestra Salvacion Yniquez (performing arts), folklorist and Mindanao State University vice president for research Sr. Delia Coronel, ICM (church service) and engineer Jose Lugay (science and technology).

A special award will be given to the family of doctors Francisco and Nena Eng Fan as the Thomasion Family of the Year. Acclaimed singer and theater artist Jamie Rivera and architect Albert Yu will receive the Thomasian Young Achiever Award.

The traditional alumni homecoming will be held also on March 14, 7 p.m., at the Hotel Inter-Continental, Makati City.

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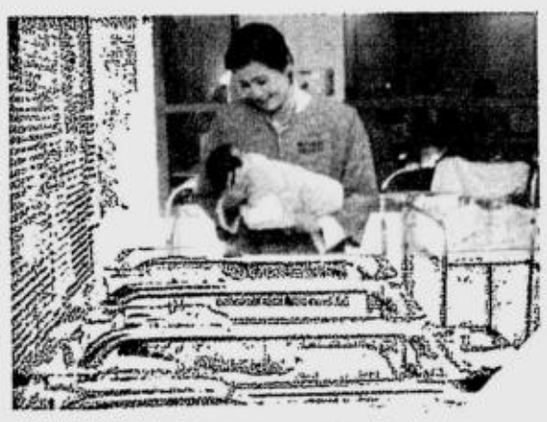


Dr. Johnny T. Go
Chairman, Department of Medicine and Emergency
Dr. Olive C. Go
Chief, Pediatric Pulmonology-Department of Pediatrics
Sto. Tomas University Hospital
International Roamers
Heavy NDD Callers
Texters

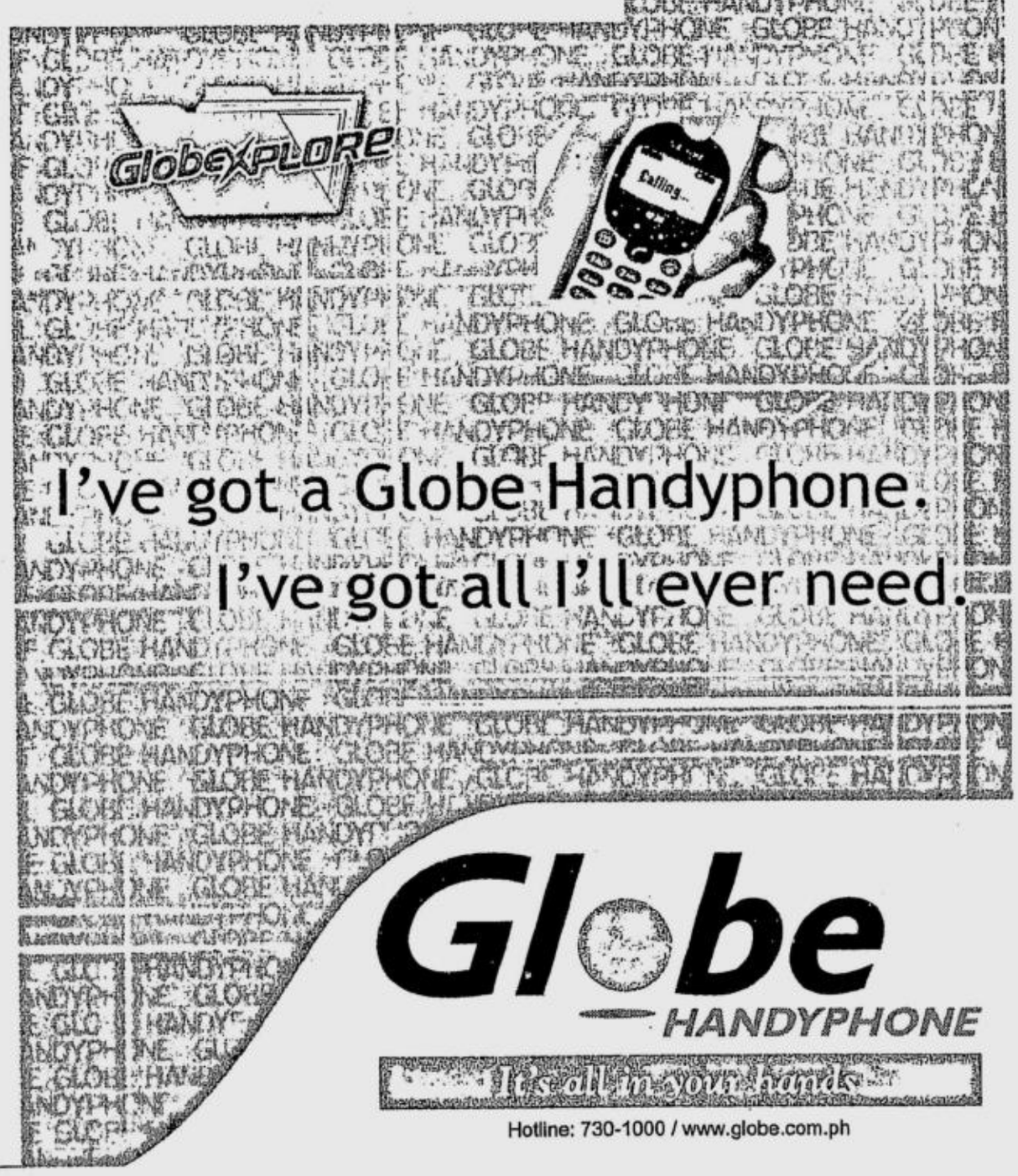
Drs. Johnny and Olive Go value keeping strong bonds within the family. "We have been using another network's service for six years when our son, who was in his teens, bugged us to switch to Globe," Johnny tells us. The couple immediately subscribed to Globe Handyphone Prepaid Plus' service and provided cellphones for the entire family for a total Globe connection. That was three years ago.

"On my part, it's easier to check on the kids' whereabouts. And they text me, on their own, even if I don't require them to do so. It's really so practical," shares Olive.

For Johnny, who specializes on emergency cases--he depends on his Globe Handyphone to monitor his patients even when out of town. "Globe solved my anxiety problem. Once I had to call my resident by the hour to check on a patient under critical condition while I was in Butuan for a convention," he enthuses.

While their now 15-year-old son had his SIM upgraded to GlobeXplore, the Gos got an additional Plan Subscription. "With Globe, we can now text and call whenever we're abroad for conventions," Olive explains.

"Sometimes, I find myself stuck in traffic, so I'd call my wife just to hear her voice--and that of our three-year-old daughter. Perhaps we should get her one soon," Johnny jests.



Sunday LIFESTYLE

Weddings & Engagements

A story of romance and reverie

NEWLYWEDS Bernie and Madonna Cheung

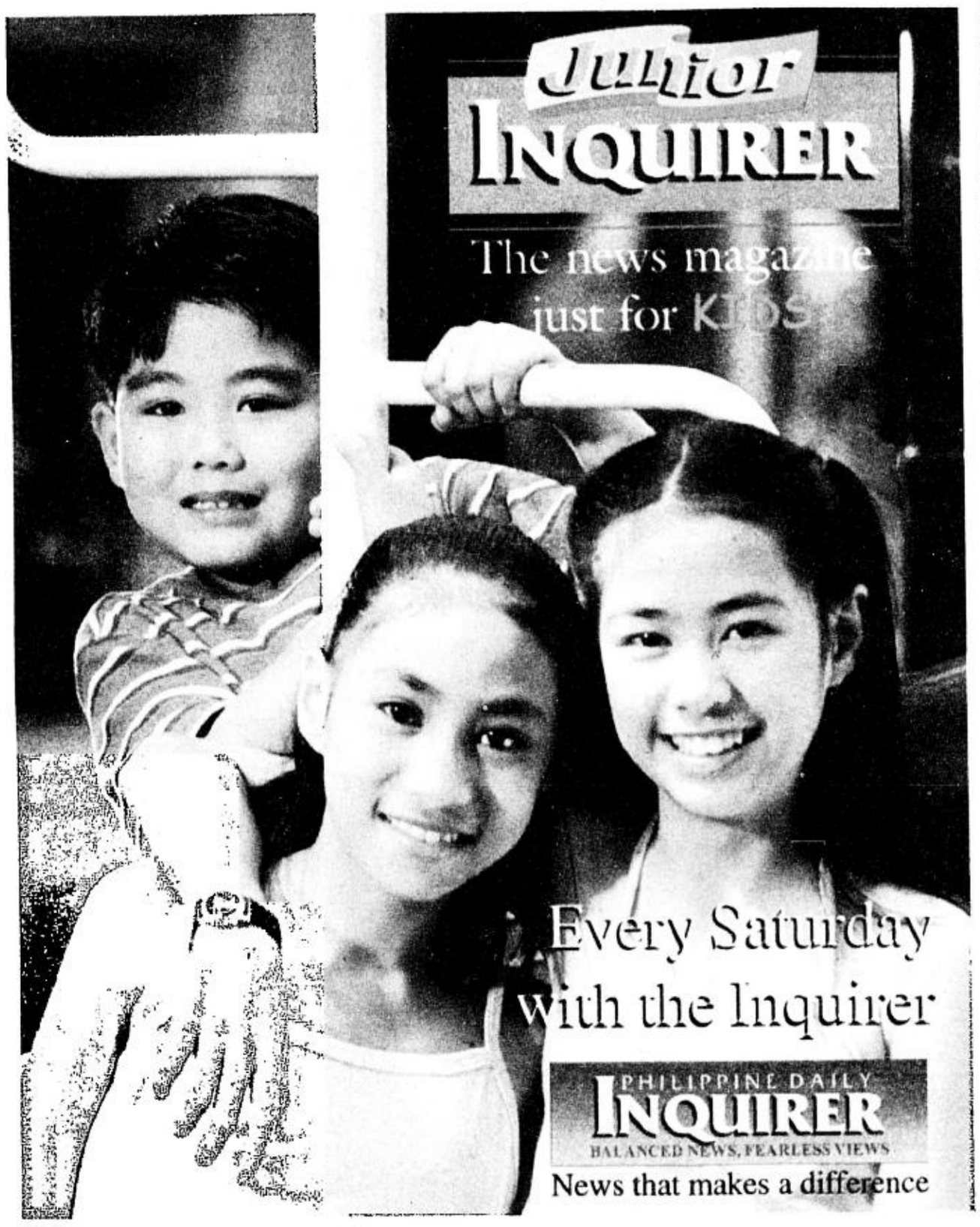
THE QUEEN of Peace Parish Church in Bacolod City was the setting for the wedding of Bernie Cheung and Madonna Yao. Proud parents Siong Pin and Letty Cheung were happy to see their son tie the knot with the youngest daughter of Robinson and Pacita Yao. The union marked the culmination of a courtship that began when the couple was first introduced in December 1998 in Manila when Madonna was visiting from Bacolod.

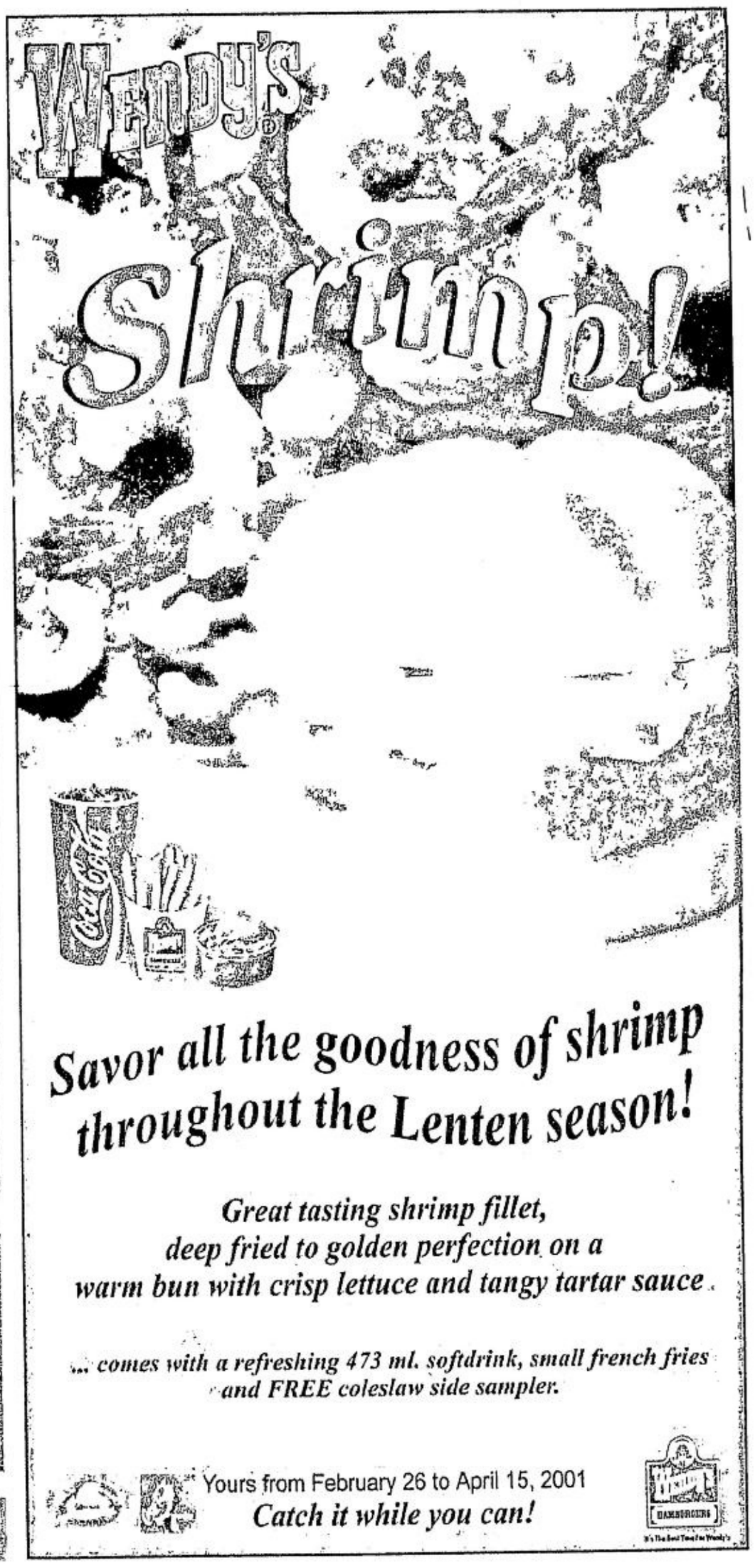
What followed was a story of romance mixed with reverie as Bernie made the effort to visit Madonna in Bacolod every month without fail, in addition to calling her every day. As the saying goes, love conquers all, and in Bernie and Donna's case, this certainly held true.

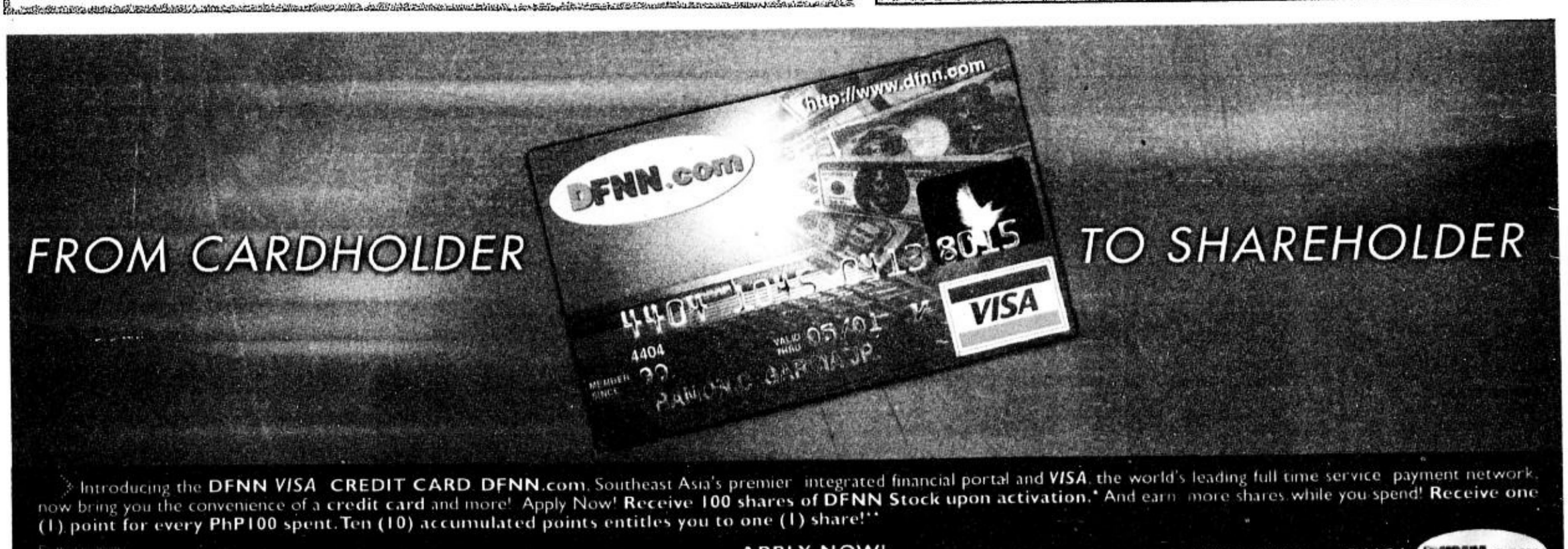
The reception attended by close friends and relatives was held at the courtly Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel, one of Bacolod's premiere locations. Before that, a prenuptial reception was held in Manila at the New Taiwoo Seafood Restaurant in Greenhills for those who could not go to Bacolod.

The bride wore an elegant white spaghetti-strapped beaded gown created by Alex Bitong, who also made the ensembles of the entourage.

More photos on pages 2, 4, 5 and 6







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Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least two weeks before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

SANTOS DEBUT

Stephanie Buenviaje Santos, only daughter of **Ruel R. Santos** and **Wilma M. Buenviaje**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Jan. 27 at Tahiti Bar & Restaurant in Antipolo City. She is a sophomore at Miriam College.

Stephanie wore a flowing gold star-satin gown with a standing collar created by Womad of Marikina City. She was escorted by her cousin **Dominique M. Santos**.

ALMAZAN DEBUT

Karen Lucas Almazan, daughter of **Redentor** and **Maria Clara Almazan**, celebrated her 18th birthday on March 4 at Ciudad Grande Executives Village, Pasig City. The debutante is a tourism sophomore at Lyceum of the Philippines, Manila.

ANDRADE DEBUT

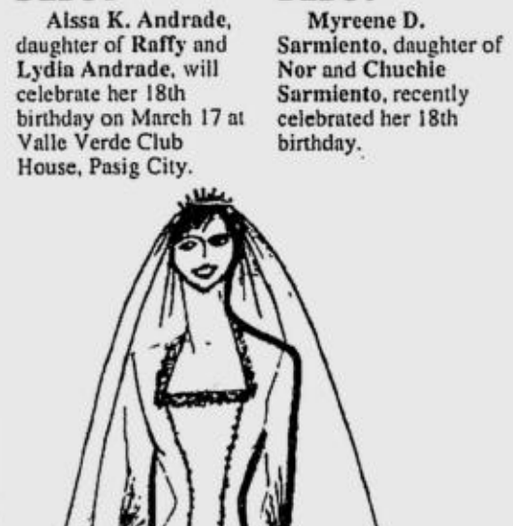
Aissa K. Andrade, daughter of **Raffy** and **Lydia Andrade**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on March 17 at Valle Verde Club House, Pasig City.

SARMIENTO DEBUT

Myreene D. Sarmiento, daughter of **Nor** and **Chuchie Sarmiento**, recently celebrated her 18th birthday.

CRUZ-CURIOSO

Engineer **Bien B. Cruz**, son of **Alfredo** and **Ma. Emma Cruz**, will tie the knot with **Luchie P. Curioso**, daughter of **Elpidio** and **Pilar Curioso**, on March 31 at the San Agustin Church. Reception will follow at Fr. Blanco's Garden in Intramuros, Manila.



VIVAR-CHUA

Dindo Vivar, son of **Baby Gozon vda. de Vivar**, and **Queenie Chua**, daughter of **Irma Bernardo vda. de Chua**, will exchange vows on March 16 at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati. Reception will follow at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Inter-Continental, Manila.

The bride will wear an ivory bridal gown in Thai silk designed by **Eric Pineda**. The gown features a scattered sunburst pattern using caviar beads, faux pearls and aurora borealis beads. A tiara of Swarovski crystals will hold her 10-meter veil of illusion tulle.

OCFEMIA-FLORENDO

Sherwin O. Ocfemia, son of **Jose O. Ocfemia** and **Pacita O. Paz**, will wed **Elizabeth "Lizette" D. Florendo**, daughter of engineer **Abraham** and **Rita D. Florendo**, on April 7 at the Valle Verde VI Clubhouse. Rev. **Butch Conde** will officiate. Reception will follow at the same venue.

Lalaine S. Babas designed the bride's gown.

PASCUA-PASCUAL

Alain Del B. Pascua, son of **Vicente** and **Anita Pascua** of Burgos, Pangasinan, and **Nendith A. Pascual**, daughter of **Cornelio** and **Nena Pascual** of Sagay, Negros Occidental, exchanged marriage vows on Dec. 17 at the Trellis and Garden of Fort Santiago in Intramuros. The garden wedding was celebrated ecumenically by a Catholic priest and a Baptist pastor. Reception was held at the same venue.

BALANAY-FRIOLO

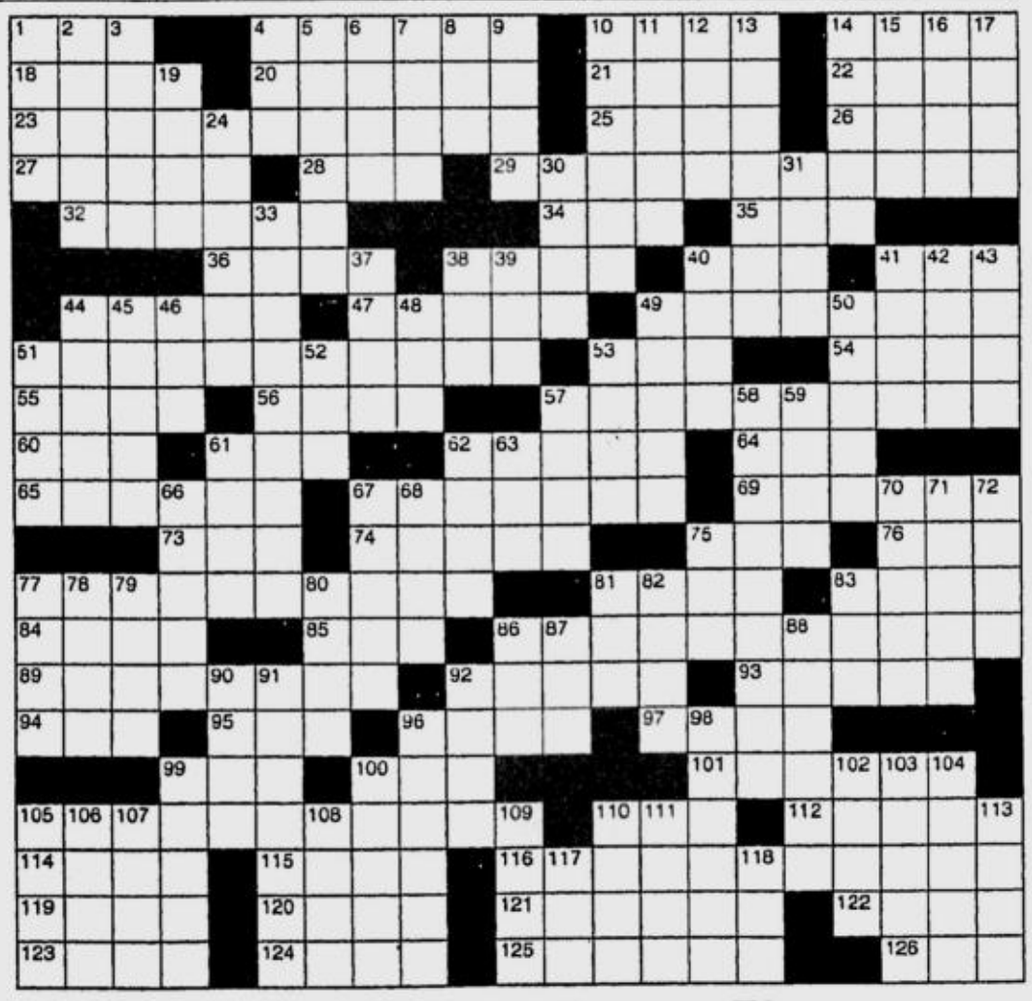
Erwin S. Balanay, son of **Eric R. Balanay** and **Rowena H. Santos**, and **Dawna Grace V. Friolo**, daughter of **Donnie Friolo** and Dr. **Lily Villaruel Fiolo**, exchanged vows on Oct. 30 at the National City United Church in QC. Reception was held at the Viajero's Grill and Restaurant.

PACETES-PASCUA

Richard Barol Pacetes, son of **Benjamin** and **Monina Pacetes**, and **Ma. Luz "Cookie" Bocanegra Pascua**, daughter of **Edgar** and **Jean Pascua**, exchanged "I dos" on Jan. 2 at the Sta. Ana Church, Davao City. The bride wore a **Maricris Tan** creation. Reception followed at the grand ballroom of the Apo View Hotel.

Sunday Crossword

ALL MINE



ACROSS
1 Start to cry?
4 Representations
10 One of a pair
14 Equipment
18 "— It a Pity?" ('70 song)
20 Posh party
21 Hurler Hershiser
22 Coax
23 Wellington's sobriquet
25 "— Lisa"
26 Lassie's father
27 Austen title start
28 CSA soldier
29 Oahu feature
32 Barber's "— for Strings"
34 Woods' org.
35 Aye opponent
36 Concept
38 Warehouse item
40 Salon request
41 Roth or Reid
44 Photographer Arbus
47 Psychologist Bettelheim
49 "Pilgrim's Progress," e.g.
51 Music center
53 Southern st.
54 "I'm working —"
55 Marathon
56 "— bien!"
57 He devours books
60 Private pension
61 "Pshaw!"
62 Composer Manuel de —
64 Moo — gai pan
65 Occult
67 Prep school
69 Balzac's "Le Pere —"
73 Moore or Tarbell
74 Filleted
75 SDI device
76 SAT's big brother
77 Poe tale
81 Mammy Yokum's prop
83 In addition
84 Barbara of "Perry Mason"
85 "Alley —"
86 Complete failure
89 Chicken Little, for one
92 Peter of "Young Frankenstein"
93 Raptor feature
94 Triumphed
95 Waugh's "The Loved —"
96 Wish
97 Cows and sows
99 Canonized Mlle.
100 Baseball's Parker
101 Moses or Monet
105 Deciduous tree
110 Cat's dog
112 PC key
114 Merrill melody
115 Rocker Rundgren
116 Dorothy's destination
119 Capone feature
120 "Splendor in the Grass" writer
121 Poe character
122 The Laura Bush of Olympus
123 Protected
124 Like fine wine
125 Byzantine art form
126 Japanese honorific

DOWN
1 Drill accessories
2 Singer Tessie
3 Upright
4 Metric start
5 5th President
6 — -de-camp
7 Baby beetle
8 Toon cry
9 Bird food
10 Vassal's allegiance
11 Smell to savor
12 Late-night name
13 Cozy cloth
14 Overly enthusiastic
15 Cleveland's lake
16 Akbar's city
17 Oliver of "Gladiator"
19 Actress Farrow
24 "Salve —"
30 — facto
31 Granola fruit
33 Like some twins
37 Skilled
38 Shuffleboard stick
39 "— Day Now" ('62 hit)
40 Eastern European
41 Author Morrison
42 Spring bloom
43 Legend
44 Frank book
45 Pizarro's victims
46 Mimic
48 "Treasure Island" monogram
49 Soothe
50 Like
51 Rickrack, e.g.
52 Live and breathe
53 Thin layer
57 "Ethan Frome" prop
58 Kitchen implement
59 Space
61 Hound's handle
62 Mr. Diller
63 Citrus cooler
66 Paper —
67 Head monk
68 Tour de force
70 Northern hemisphere?
71 Bean or Welles
72 "— Wolf" ('85 film)
75 PD alert
77 January event
78 Heavenly headgear
79 Dash
80 Health measure?
81 Buddy
82 Fateful 15th
83 Architect's add-on
86 Prune
87 Cyclone center
88 Stood up
90 Speck
91 Torpor
92 Comice kin
96 Paid attention
98 Michener opus
99 Extra
100 Heel type
102 Foot part
103 Farm features
104 Neon —
105 Perennial panelist Peggy
106 Namu or Willy
107 Chanteuse Edith
108 Belfry sound
109 Tiller
110 Cello parts
111 Section
113 "Saving Private —" ('98 film)
117 "O Sole —"
118 Fond du —, WI

ANSWER ON PAGE F7

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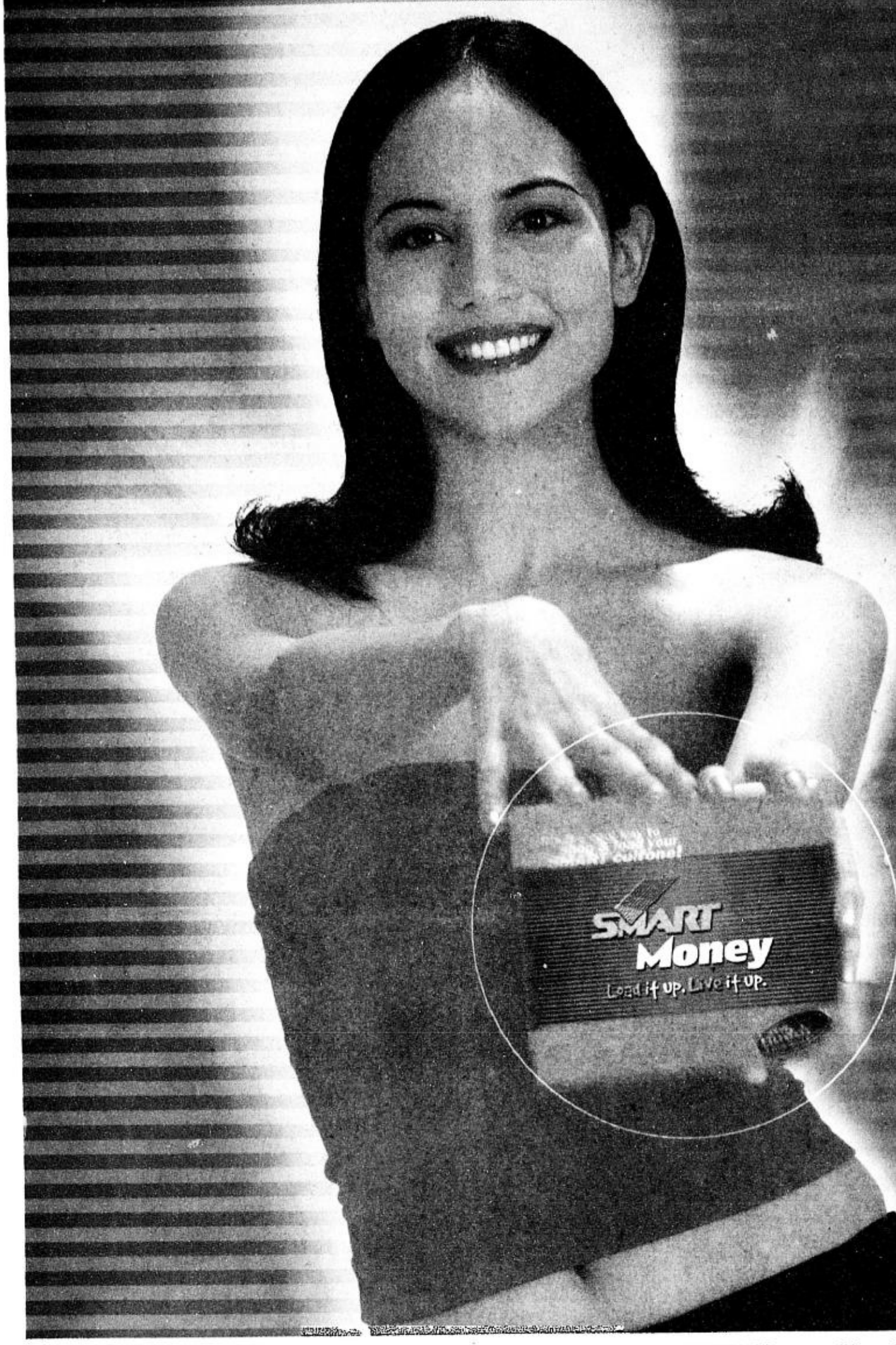

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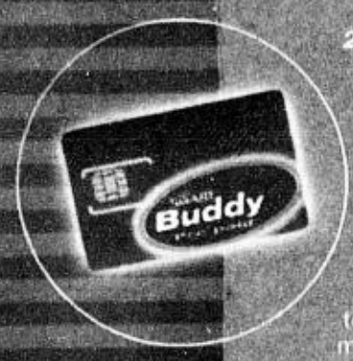

2. SMART Money SIM. This is the engine that powers the unique cash card & cellfone linkage. The SMART Money SIM enables you to access the SMART Money & Mobile Banking Solutions such as SMART Buddy reloading, balance monitoring, card to card fund transfers & more!

3. SMART Money MasterCard User's Guide. This is your handy SMART Money info kit. It has everything you need to know about SMART Money.

4. SMART Money Mobile Banking Welcome Pack. It contains all the information about SMART Mobile Banking Solutions. SMART Mobile Banking Solutions allow you to reload your SMART Money MasterCard with just a few clicks from your SMART GSM cellfone. To enjoy the full convenience of SMART Money with SMART Mobile Banking Solutions, refer to this handy guide.

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- The SMART Money SIM* pack comes with a FREE SMART Money MasterCard that allows you to hit the malls & your favorite shopping places! Accepted in all MasterCard Electronic establishments nationwide and even in places that don't accept credit cards.
- Reload call and,text credits to your SMART Buddy cellfone from your SMART Money MasterCard, and with just a few clicks, you can even load your friends' and family's SMART Buddy cellfones.
- Manage your SMART Money expenses by keeping track of your card balance using your SMART GSM cellfone.
- Load cash value to your SMART Money MasterCard in a few cellfone clicks, from your Mobile Bank Account.**
- Buy stuff without even entering a store! With SMART Money, you can order, pay and have goods delivered from wherever you are!
- Manage SMART Money extension cards from your SMART cellfone to control your household budget. With just a few clicks, you can dispense cash value for allowances, gasoline expenses or the grocery budget.

* Also available for SMART Gold subscribers
**must be applied for separately

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SMART Buddy

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PROMO MECHANICS

1. *If your SMART Buddy or Gold cellfone came with the complete SMART Money MBS SIM and FREE SMART Money MasterCard, all you have to do is activate your SMART Money MasterCard.*
2. *If your SMART Buddy or Gold cellfone already has the SMART Money MBS SIM card, just visit the nearest SMART Telecenter to get the SMART Money MasterCard for FREE by presenting your SMART Money MBS SIM card.*
3. ***HOW TO ACTIVATE YOUR SMART Money MasterCard:***
   a. *Go to SMART MENU and select SMART Money.*
   b. *Key-in your 12-digit MCOM number (printed on your card) and press OK.*
   c. *Key in your default wireless PIN (W-PIN): 123456 and press OK.*
   d. *You will receive a confirmation message and be advised to change your W-PIN to activate your card.*
4. *All SMART Money MasterCards to be activated from January 10 to March 31, 2001 shall be credited with Two Hundred Pesos (Php200.00) on the account 24 hours from activation.*
5. *Activation of the SMART Money MasterCard refers to the initialization of the SMART Money MasterCard with the SMART Mobile Phone prior to use as described in the SMART Money User's Guide.*
6. *Once the Php200 value has been credited to his SMART Money MasterCard account, the cardholder will be notified via an SMS message in his SMART cellfone regarding the credit of such.*
7. ***HOW TO USE YOUR SMART Money MasterCard:***
   Face-to-Face (in-store) Purchase
   a. *To make an in-store purchasing (face-to-face), just present your SMART Money MasterCard to the store cashier for payment of selected merchandise.*
   b. *Cashier swipes the SMART Money MasterCard in the POS terminal and keys in the purchase amount.*
   c. *If transaction is approved, message is sent to POS terminal and the sales slip is printed.*
   d. *Sign on the dotted line and you're off!*
   e. *You will receive a text confirmation of your transaction.*

   Non face-to-face (remote) Purchase
   a. *Call the store to order items, advise the order taker that you will be paying through SMART Money MasterCard.*
   b. *Give the order taker your 12-digit MCOM number.*
   c. *If transaction is validated, a payment request message is sent to your cellfone.*
   d. *To accept payment request, press ACCEPT, key in your W-PIN and press OK. To cancel the transaction, click on REJECT.*
   e. *System validates your W-PIN, account status, and SMART Money funds. If details are validated, your SMART Money MasterCard account is debited.*
   f. *You will receive a text message to acknowledge your transaction.*

   Transfer value to another SMART Money MasterCard
   a. *Go to SMART MENU and select SMART Money.*
   b. *From SMART Money menu, click on TRANSFER.*
   c. *Key in the 12-digit MCOM number of the recipient party and press OK.*
   d. *Select a preset amount and press OK.*
   e. *Key in your W-PIN and press OK.*
   f. *The SMART Money MasterCard system verifies your W-PIN, account status, and SMART Money MasterCard funds. If details are validated, your SMART Money MasterCard account will then be debited and the value is transferred to the recipient.*
   g. *Both you and the recipient will receive a text message confirming the amount successfully transferred and your updated balances.*
8. *Only one (1) SMART Money MasterCard may be activated with a specific SMART Money MBS SIM card.*
9. *Cardholders who avail of two or more SMART Money MBS SIMs may be provided with the same number of SMART Money MasterCards. In such cases, they may activate all cards and qualify to avail more than once.*
10. *The FREE Php 200 promo does not apply to SMART Money MasterCard Extension cardholders, whose cards are issued on behalf of the Principal cardholder and may not in any manner be linked to the SMART cellfone.*
11. *Promo period is valid until March 31, 2001.*
12. *SMART Communications and FIRST e-Bank reserves the right not to credit the Php200 amount to SMART Money MasterCard accounts it deems unfit, such as but not limited to, stolen/lost cards.*

* Approved by DTI-NCR.
Per DTI-NCR permit # 0015. Series of 2001.

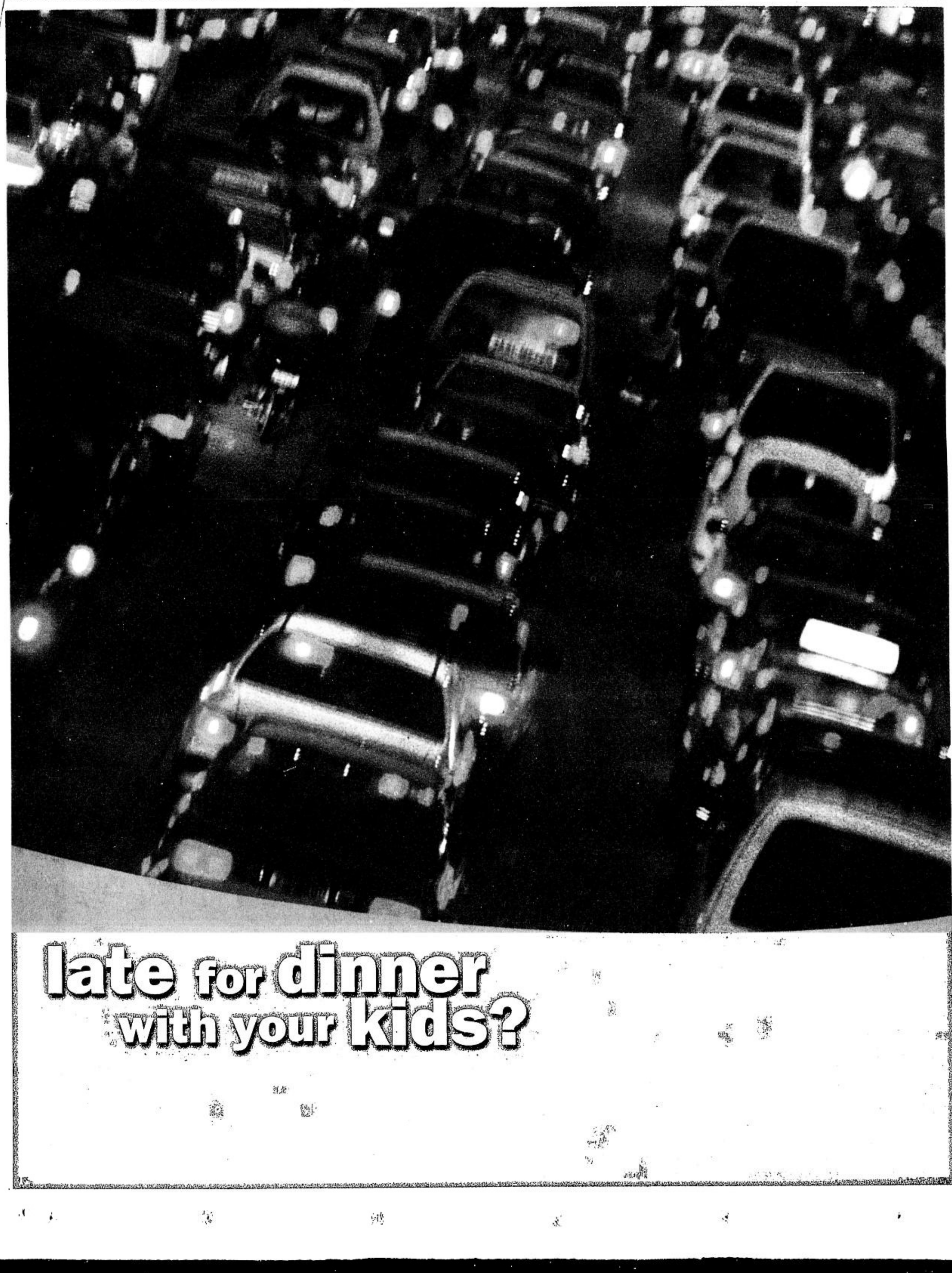
A story of romance and reverie

(From page F1)

A BREATHTAKING view from the terrace of the Queen of Peace Church

THE GROOM marching down the aisle with parents Siong Pin and Letty Cheung.

THE RADIANT bride with parents Robinson and Pacita Yao



late for dinner with your kids?

WITH THE GROOM'S family

A story of romance and reverie

(From page F4)

BERNIE and Madonna with Fr. Noly A. Que

A story of romance and reverie

(From page F5)

WITH MEMBERS of the groom's family: (from right) Brian, Brenan, Candice, Bradford, Baldwin and Byron

WITH THE GROOM'S mother Letty and good friends Chiqui Merchan, Tessie Amparo and Lina Lao

MADONNA and Bernie

THE CEREMONIAL toast offered by best man Bradford Cheung

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FUTURE wives and husbands with facilitators from Well-being Specialists

Seminar assesses yin and yang

EDSA Shangri-La Manila's Catering Sales Department recently treated its clients to a free pre-wedding seminar titled "Choices... Reflections on My Journey." The seminar, conducted by Well-being Specialists, was a one-day module that explored the strengths and witnesses of a relationship and the ways to shape a blissful future as a couple.

Edsa Shangri-La was the venue of the affair. To show its gratitude to its clients, the hotel assisted in preparations on event matters.

The seminar helped find ways to ensure the couples are off to a good start.

A tribute to the Filipina bride

AFTER THE SUCCESSFUL staging of "Weddings at the Palace," a bridal event held last year at the Coconut Palace, CCP Complex, another unique bridal showcase, "Kasalan sa Intramuros," a fitting tribute to the Filipino bride, will take place on April 6, 7 and 8 at the Villa Immaculada, Manila Cathedral Gardens, Intramuros, Manila.

With direct endorsement and blessings of the Arsobispado de Manila to Catholic marrying couples and the support of the Intramuros Administration, "Kasalan sa Intramuros" is expected to be the biggest bridal event ever.

Event highlights will include a showcase of participating wedding suppliers such as fashion designers, photographers, videographers, florists, caterers, invitations and giveaways, cake designers, musicians, hotels, bridal car services, hair and makeup artists, wedding coordinators, travel agencies, real estate, health and fitness, insurance, appliances, furniture and a whole lot more. A competition on photo, gown, cake and floral arrangement showcasing the artistry and masterpieces of some of the best wedding suppliers in the country will also take place, along with a bridal fashion show, a bridal sweepstakes, a day-long acoustic serenade, a colorful release of live butterflies, fireworks, wedding games.

With at least 100 participating companies, the event presents the most complete gathering of the best wedding suppliers in town today, housed under a 1,500-sq m fully air-conditioned and carpeted tent.

Partners in producing this bridal affair to help couples plan the most important event in their lives are C&C Creative Concepts and Tamayo's, the Wedding Specialist. Event consultants are John and Benette Rana of www.WeddingssAt Work.com. Call 416-7864/30.

Shop for a cause

THE DALAYRAYAN Development Board has organized a summer *bodega* sale for exporters of name-brand ladies and men's wear, children's wear, houseware and gift items for family and friends here and abroad at factory prices.

The organizers of this event, led by Pilar J. Araneta, chair, are Suzie Laurel-Delgado president; Gloria Sia, vice president; Liz M. Gomez, secretary; Ana B. Pastelero, treasurer; and Josie de los Santos, public relations officer. They are raising funds for their project—a center for young, underprivileged women of a depressed area in Makati City. The center will provide training and teach them the needed skills for the betterment of their respective livelihoods. Most important, the women learn good morals and work ethics, which alone can change the environment of the community.

The event will be held on March 15-18, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., at Unit 4, Midway Court Building, 241 Edsa (across White Plains Avenue). Everyone is invited.

FEU conference focuses on urban development

THE ISSUE of urban development is an urgent concern in the new millennium due to the magnitude of problems confronting our expanding cities. The need for appropriate and acceptable solutions has never been as pressing as it is today. And in addressing these issues, a broader platform for discussing strategies and plans from both government and the private sector is necessary, as its successful implementation would call for public understanding and support.

It is with this rationale that the Far Eastern University's Center for Studies on the Urban Environment convened an international conference at The Manila Hotel on "Managing Megacities," with its focus on "21st-century Challenges and Opportunities."

Prof. Daniel Doeppers, a geographer at the University of Wisconsin who has published a number of books on Manila, provided the conference its keynote presentation. Other foreign and local experts presented conference papers on issues of governance; planning, development and delivery of basic services; sustainability of issues concerning health, environment, waste management and energy; as well as discussions of history and culture, restoration and conservation, literature, cinema and the arts.

The other aspects of urban management demand equal attention. The increase in population invariably led to problems of housing the multiplying number of families residing in the city. One solution is the zoning of large areas for sale only in tiny lots, with the public sector absorbing some of the cost of survey and infrastructure preparation. It is important that this opportunity to invest in their own housing be made available to working families.

Doeppers could not have said it more plainly, "We cannot continue to pile our excrete and industrial wastes onto the land and into the waters and be at all assured about a living future for our children and the megacities they will inherit."

There is no doubt about the brighter future up ahead that we all have to reach out for, except that we have to guard against our own shortsightedness, or even blindness to the realities offered by our own history of mistakes and misgivings.

The FEU-sponsored conference on megacities confirmed the need to properly address urban problems now, without any more delay.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

A married woman falls for a priest who's now avoiding her

LOVE NOTES

Joe D' Mango

DEAR Joe,

My marriage has been shaky because of my husband's inability to hold a job and his irresponsibility. On top of that, about five years ago, he got hooked on drugs.

I am active in church and last year, I met someone who showered me with the love and affection I had been longing for all these years. He loved my kids and my kids adored him. From the start, this guy asked me if we could be together in the future, to which I said, "Probably." We hit if off because our lines of communication were always open.

So we became lovers. But the problem is he's a priest. Now I am paying the price because lately he has stopped being thoughtful and caring. I wrote telling him to pursue the priesthood because it is easier for me to lose him to God than to someone else. He has not responded to my text messages and card nor has he said a word about the gifts I sent. In fact, I learned that he gave away one of my gifts.

I know our relationship was never right but we still went on. Up to now, I am still in love with him. We haven't had a chance to talk yet so I don't really know how he feels. How can I forget him when we regularly see each other in church?

I need your advice on how to go about this struggle. I have no one to confide in because we move around with the same people. Thanks and congratulations to Wave 89.1.

BEL

Bel, many of us come to a point in our marriages when we want to give up on our spouses for differences that we find difficult to compromise. I may sound too condoning when I tell you to hang on to your irresponsible husband because he shouldn't be and you have all the right to be well taken care of. But Bel, all marriages have their cracks that, when left unattended, can cause irreparable breakage.

Your husband's inability to keep a job and his irresponsibility may be attributed to his drug dependence and a lot of other factors. This may seem like an unacceptable and unforgivable behavior but I believe he still is capable of change. Turning your back on him is not the way to fix your marriage.

Many of us tend to run away from issues in our marriages that seem impossible to resolve. Our refusal to understand, fear, pride and selfishness are the basic enemies of relationships. Many marriages fail because spouses refuse to look objectively at their problems and resort to finger-pointing and stubborn denial and unacceptance of their own faults.

Bel, whatever it was that happened between you and the priest, let it remain a figment of your past. Don't be misled by false emotions that disguise themselves as redeeming solutions to distressed relationships.

He stopped because he knew what you had was wrong. It's about time you realize the same.

Marriages will always be emotional battle fields. I hope that your story would remind everyone that we should love our families and remain faithful to our spouses, in spite of their sometimes unacceptable behavior. Remember, it is the time when they are most unlovable that we should love them even more. It is the time when they are most unreasonable that we should be more understanding. It is the time when they need us that we should be there for them and not for someone else. The solution to our problems is not outside of marriage. They can only be resolved within, free from any external influences. In spite of all the temptations that threaten to ruin our relationships, let us always remain steadfast and faithful to people we have vowed to love so we can keep our marriages and treasure them for a lifetime.

E-mail the author at lovenotes@amanet.net

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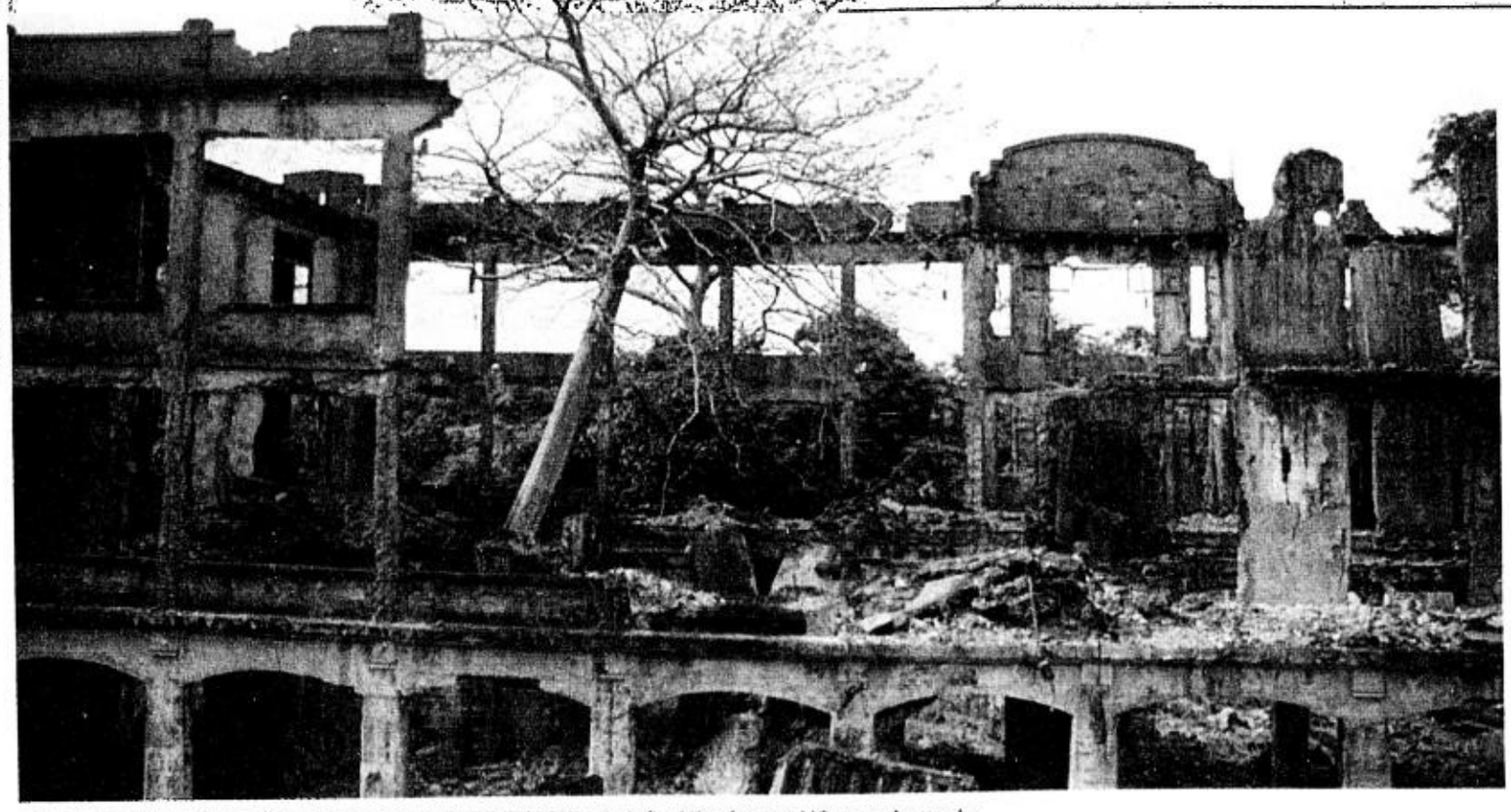
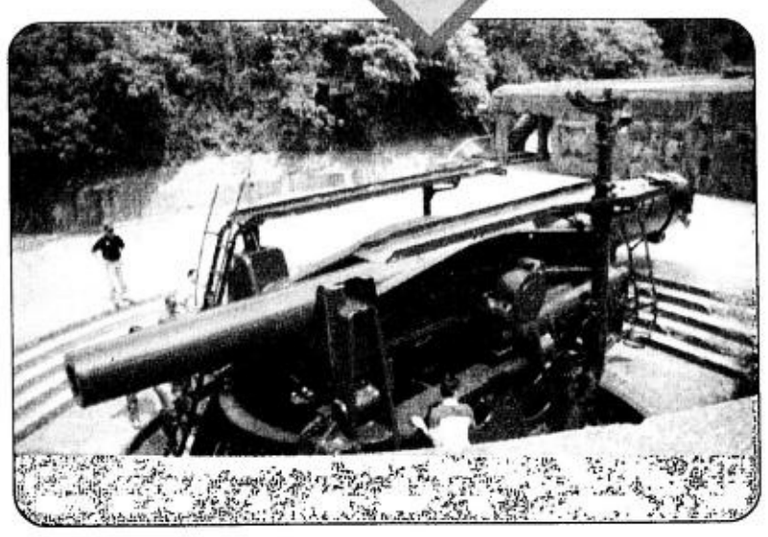
Sunday LIFESTYLE Escape



WHICH CAME FIRST, THE RUINS OR THE TREE? What's left of the former US army barracks



ONE of the big guns of Corregidor

The fall and rise of Corregidor

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Romy Homillada

WHAT took Filipino and American engineers four years to build, it took nature only a few seconds to alter. From afar, the huge dome-shaped Pacific War Memorial in Corregidor resembles a vintage World War II parachute, from the parallel lines running down the dome's side to a hole right at its center.

The shrine funded by America is positioned in such a way that on May 6 of every year, the high noon sun that shines directly through the hole falls right smack in the middle of a round marble altar dedicated to fallen soldiers in the last war. Filipinos, as well as Americans, who still remember their history know this date by heart as the fall of Corregidor to the Japanese.

But since Mt. Pinatubo blew its top in 1991, or almost 50 years after the Americans surrendered Corregidor to the Japanese, the ray of light coming from the noonday sun has tilted a little off the marble surface's center. One of the island's senior tour guides traces the unwelcome movement to an earthquake as a result of the volcano's eruption.

"They studied the cycle of the sun," says Pablito Martinez. "This partly explains why it took them so long to build this memorial."

The pool of water that used to circle the entire monument before cascading down both sides of a concrete walkway leading to an outdoor structure fashioned from a network of steel is now empty. Its concrete basin had just undergone much-needed repairs, says Martinez, when another earthquake from the womb of Mt. Pinatubo ruined it in the blink of an eye, allowing gallons upon gallons of water to seep through its cracks.

The steel sculpture dubbed the "Eternal Flame of Freedom" is now a bit rusty from years of exposure to the elements. Since the platform where the "flame" stands is one of the tadpole-shaped island's highest points, it also doubles as a viewing deck offering visitors a breathtaking view of Corregidor's tail, and beyond it, several smaller islands and passing ships entering historic but now polluted Manila Bay.

Once the island's quiet evening sets in, a steady sparkle of white lights used to diffuse the red ones that glowed underneath the sculpture, making it undulate from afar like one giant blaze. These lights, it seems, are out these days as well.

Surprisingly, none of these creeping signs of disrepair has lessened the island's worth. If anything, they have given Corregidor yet another layer of history to add to the volumes written and said about it.

Indeed, long after Corregidor has earned its rightful place in history, the

THE FALL/ p.G4

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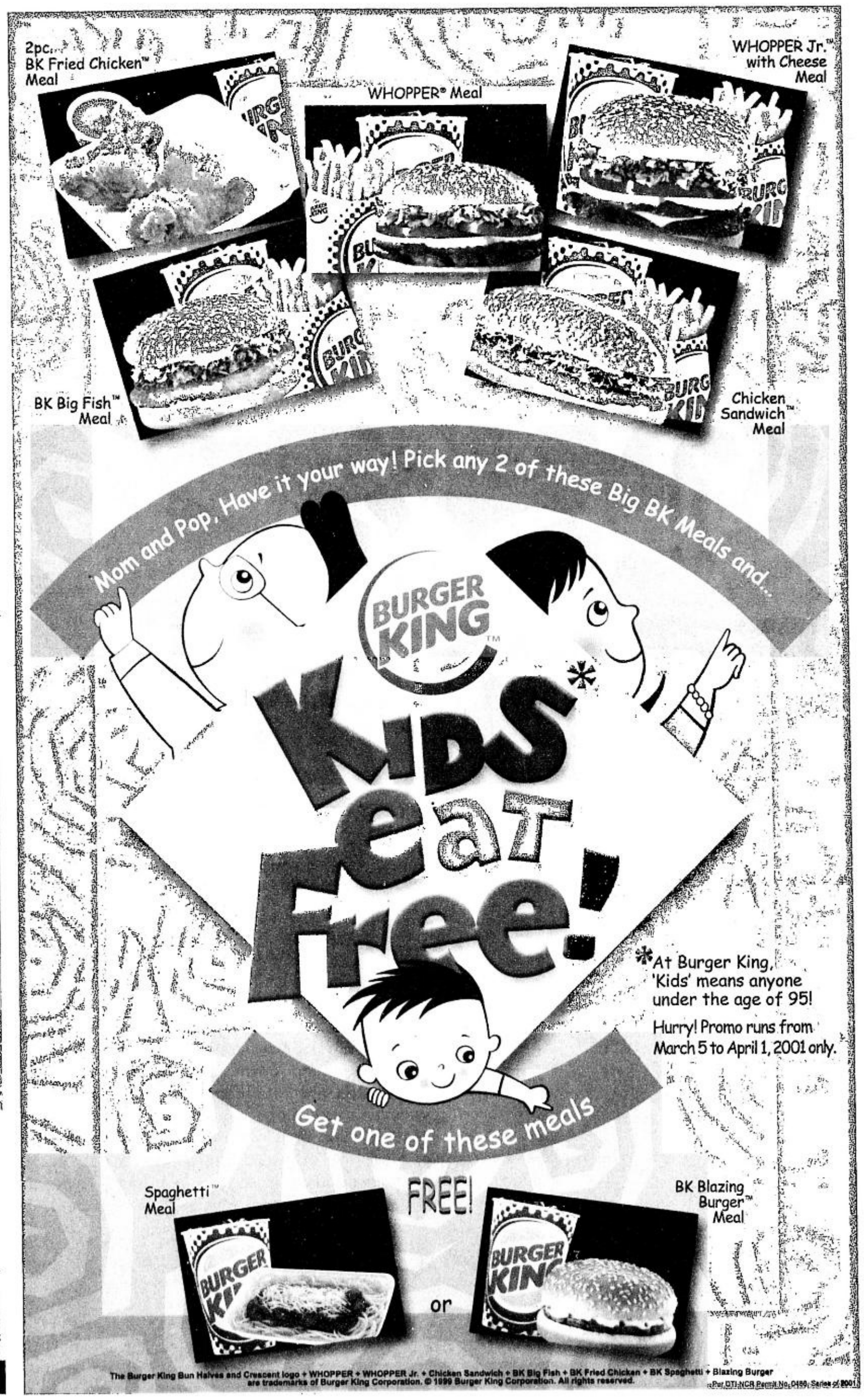


THE EASTER JUBILEE 2000 PILGRIMS. Ising Angeles, Pat Abasolo, Bobbie Berba, Sis. Angie Bernardo, Mr. and Ms Rafael Blasco, Celeste Blasco, Andrea Bajaro, Doyet Baltazar, Chikee Bazon, Dr. and Ms Bayani Blas, Deling Boado, Dr. Alding Cabalona, Cris Concepcion, Nenita Chua, Mimi, Joey and Kristine de Castro, Cecilia Gargatiel, Perla Geronimo, Dennis Custodio, Gina Masucbol, Beng Jones, Cosette Justiniani, Dr. Luisa Diquiatco-Kanapi, Mr. and Ms Candido Lloren, Sis. Soledad Magistrado, Dr. and Ms Augut Manalo, Mr. and Ms Mauro Manuel, Caring Matibag, Esther Platino, Emma Rosqueta, Annie Ruiz, Mr. and Ms Recto Rodriguez, Emma Suanino, Cely Santos, Pia Suarez, Willie, Judy, Jon, Willa and Jed Tan, Ric, Loi, Frances, Rica and Rico Torres, Gerry Tingson, Dr. Angie Tantengco, Mel Zapanta, Jojie Zapanta, Perla Arguelles, Fr. Gerry Tapiador and Janet Diquiatco-Torio

A learning and humbling experience

BY JANET DIQUIATCO-TORIO

NOT a year has passed since my first trip to the Holy Land, and here I am again, gushing over yet another spiritual sojourn to that most spectacular region. Needless to say, I enjoyed it immensely, especially since I was in good company—friends, relatives and parishioners of Fr. Gerry Tapiador were among the people who joined me, along with some walk-in clients of Catholic Travel Inc.

My first trip really made such an impression that I always find myself talking about it all the time. Not surprisingly, the people I've talked to eventually became my future passengers since they, too, would like to feel the good and spiritually fulfilling memories I had during my last trip.

When the day came, I was a bit nervous because of the extra responsibilities I had to face as the trip's organizer and tour leader. Being the youngest in a family of nine, I had always been the baby of the family—pampered incessantly. Now I'll have to take care of a big group. However, I felt reassured knowing that Father Gerry and my older sister Luisa were with me.

Spiritual landmarks

Going through our usual route, we came upon the Church of the Transfiguration and the Grotto of the Garden of Gethsemane—spiritual landmarks that have always moved people tremendously. Two other very special places were St. Peter's primacy, where I felt Jesus' presence the most, and the Palm Sunday Road with the chapel of Dominus Flevit, where Jesus wept over Jerusalem. The last one gave such a nice view that overlooks the City of Jerusalem—it will just bring tears to your eyes.

If it were not for our schedule, I would have liked to stay there much longer and actually feel the words in the Bible. There you can close your eyes and imagine what Jesus went through and be with Him during that moment.

Still, the expertise of Father Gerry as tour guide and chaplain more than made up for the tight schedule. An enlightening as well as touching experience, it was so exciting to learn a lot of historical information about Israel and Italy, and to actually see some of the places being discussed.

Father Gerry's knowledge of the place is very extensive. He explained why Rome became the center of Christianity and not Israel, and he elaborated on its history. He was an engaging speaker that we preferred to listen to him rather than take a nap during our two-hour drive to Sta. Rita de Cascia.

Many appreciated his kindness, patience and dedication in helping us fully understand the essence of our pilgrimage. This is my second trip with Father Gerry, but he continues to amaze me with his intellectual depth and spiritual devotion.

Following Jesus' footsteps

Still, one thing we have to understand about Pilgrimage tours is that it's not all pleasure. To fully feel its essence, you have to follow the footsteps of Jesus Christ from joyful, sorrowful to glorious, which is similar to what we went through during our trip.

At first, there was this joyful and exciting feeling among us—particularly to first-timers whose long-awaited dream to visit the Holy Land came true. Personally, the excitement I felt during this second trip was as intense as the first. All throughout, I had this unexplainable feeling of happiness just being there.

The sorrowful part of the trip was for the not-so-young pilgrims who had to bear traveling so long just to see the Holy Land. And since it was springtime, some of us (including myself) got pollen allergy at the start of the tour. We were all sneezing and coughing, walking from one place to another, sometimes under the heat of the sun. My sister even fell in a shepherd's field and sprained her ankle.

Still, through it all, we felt God's glorious grace. The allergies, the sun, the long and tiring walks did not stop us from enjoying the pilgrimage. God even gave us four good doctors in our group who quickly tended to our medical needs.

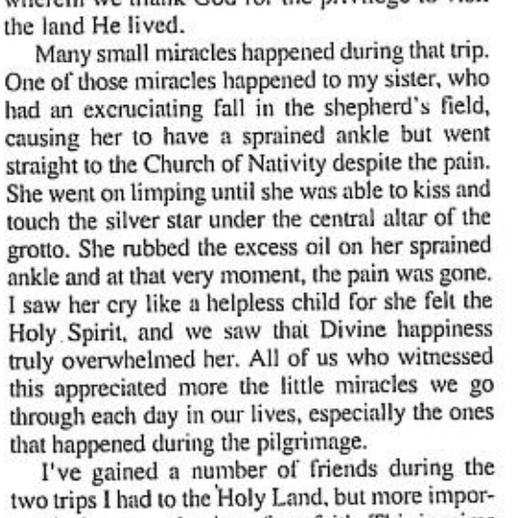
The climate was cool, the hotels were great and there were many choices of food. The place and its scenery were terrific, and the locals were very warm and friendly. Every day we had Mass wherein we thank God for the privilege to visit the land He lived.

Many small miracles happened during that trip. One of those miracles happened to my sister, who had an excruciating fall in the shepherd's field, causing her to have a sprained ankle but went straight to the Church of Nativity despite the pain. She went on limping until she was able to kiss and touch the silver star under the central altar of the grotto. She rubbed the excess oil on her sprained ankle and at that very moment, the pain was gone. I saw her cry like a helpless child for she felt the Holy Spirit, and we saw that Divine happiness truly overwhelmed her. All of us who witnessed this appreciated more the little miracles we go through each day in our lives, especially the ones that happened during the pilgrimage.

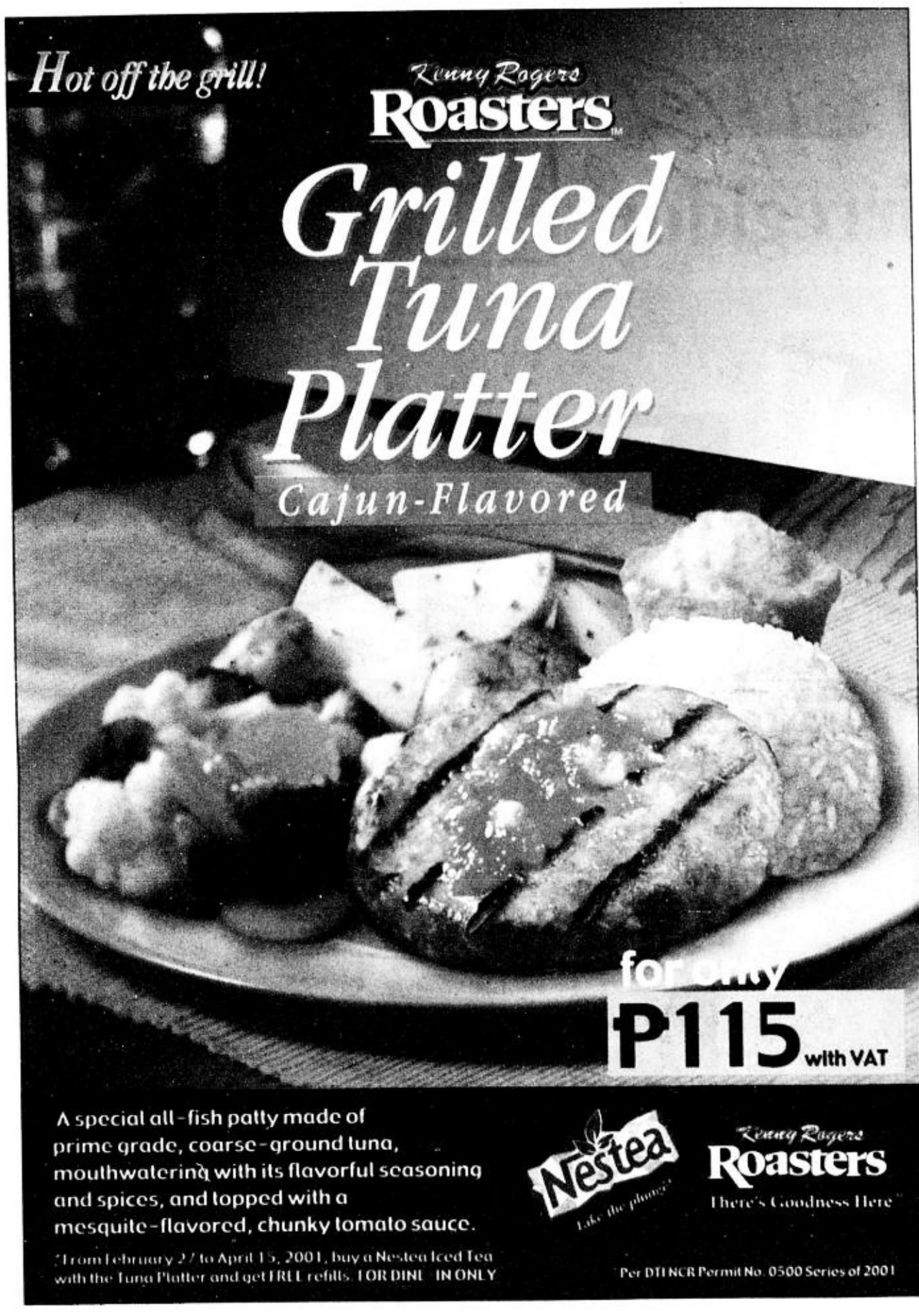
I've gained a number of friends during the two trips I had to the Holy Land, but more important is the strengthening of my faith. This inspires me to share the extraordinary experience with those who are yearning for spiritual growth by seeing the place where Jesus walked and made miracles.

Pilgrimages like these have taught me to be more patient, understanding, loving, and how to deal with different kinds of people and accept them for who they are. I'm sure many of those who joined the trip felt the same way.

E-mail the author at jdiquiatco@yahoo.com or call 932-7778 and (0917)540-9371.



THE AUTHOR with her sister Dr. Ma. Luisa Diquiatco-Kanapi and Tita Annie at Assisi, Italy



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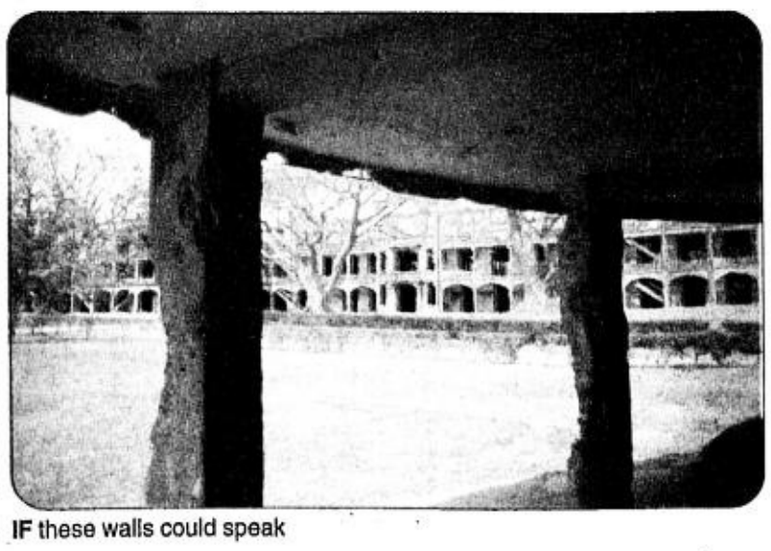
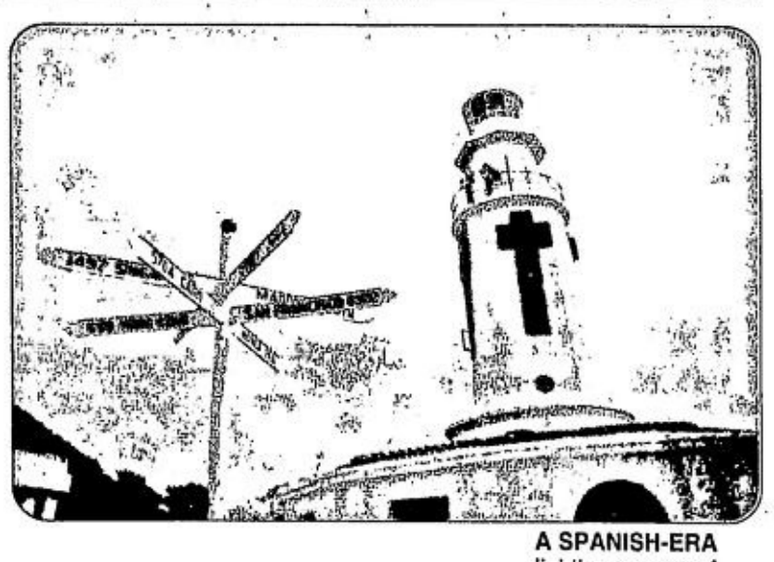


IF these walls could speak



A SPANISH-ERA lighthouse, one of several surviving structures that antedates the coming of the Americans.

The fall and rise of Corregidor

One of the worst-bombed corners of the earth during World War II has emerged from the beating of history as a key historical and tourist destination

(From page G1)

island off the southern coast of Bataan continues to evolve and gain new meaning not only among WWII veterans, but more so to succeeding generations that have grown jaded to everyday violence but still remain clueless to the real horrors of war.

The Rock

The island, which Americans then referred to as The Rock, is more than just a mishmash of bombed ruins, circuitous tunnels, decommissioned mortars and lush mountains and jungles frozen in time. Nor is it a mere repository of a bygone era.

If one digs deep enough, Corregidor has also become a mirror of our continuing struggles to build a nation and to draw lessons from a bittersweet past without being consumed by it. Past atrocities inflicted by our American colonizers and Japanese invaders may have been forgiven, but hopefully not forgotten.

A cemetery for Japanese war dead, for instance, has been turned into a Zen-like "Garden of Peace" dripping with Shinto and Buddhist symbols. Yes, today's peace-loving Japanese, whose grandfathers and great-grandfathers probably took part in raping and burning Manila to the ground, were said to have pushed for the garden's inclusion during President Corazon Aquino's time.

A pair of statues in combat uniforms, one tall, the other short, pays tribute to Fil-American friendship. Never mind if the former colonizer has yet to fully honor the Filipino veterans' invaluable contributions to the war effort with a compensation package at par with their American comrades.

Even the politically savvy Manuel Quezon, then president of the Philippine Commonwealth, was unable to contain his rage after learning America's decision to put on hold its war efforts in Asia to save Europe from the clutches of Hitler. This became evident when Gen. Douglas MacArthur said the now famous words "I shall return" at Corregidor's Lorcha Dock before sailing off in a submarine for Darwin, Australia.

"How can they race to the rescue of a distant cousin when a daughter is being raped right before them?" Quezon fulminated.

Like a true-blue politico, he later changed tact after being appeased by President Roosevelt. But like the rest of his countrymen, he also suffered directly from the war's ill effects before going to the US to put up a Philippine government in exile.

HALLOWED GROUND. Inside the Pacific War Memorial, where the noonday sun shines directly at the center of a marble altar every time the country observes Corregidor's fall.

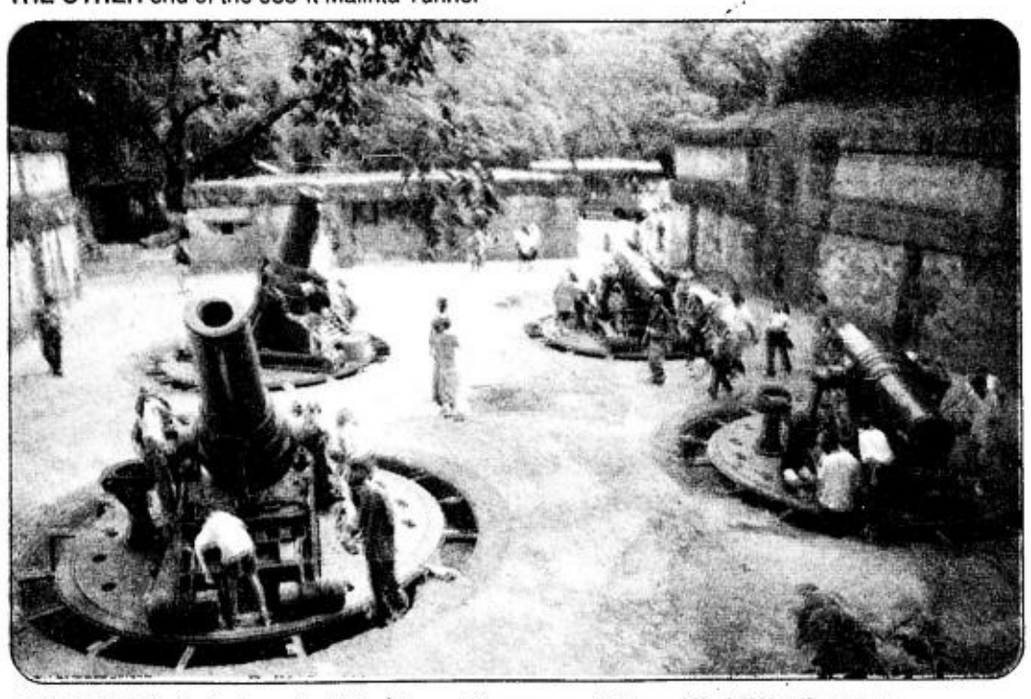
Quezon, then coughing like hell from tuberculosis, lived with his family in a huge, damp bomb shelter called Malinta Tunnel as Japanese bombs pounded the island from Bataan. An American sub took the Quezons to Australia several months later en route to the US, where the president soon breathed his last.

Meanwhile, MacArthur entrusted Corregidor's defenses to a lower-ranking general named Jonathan Wainright, who fought the good fight before surrendering the island to the Japanese several months later. The tunnel that cuts through a mountain doubled as a hospital and nerve center for the Americans' futile attempt to ward off advancing Japanese forces.

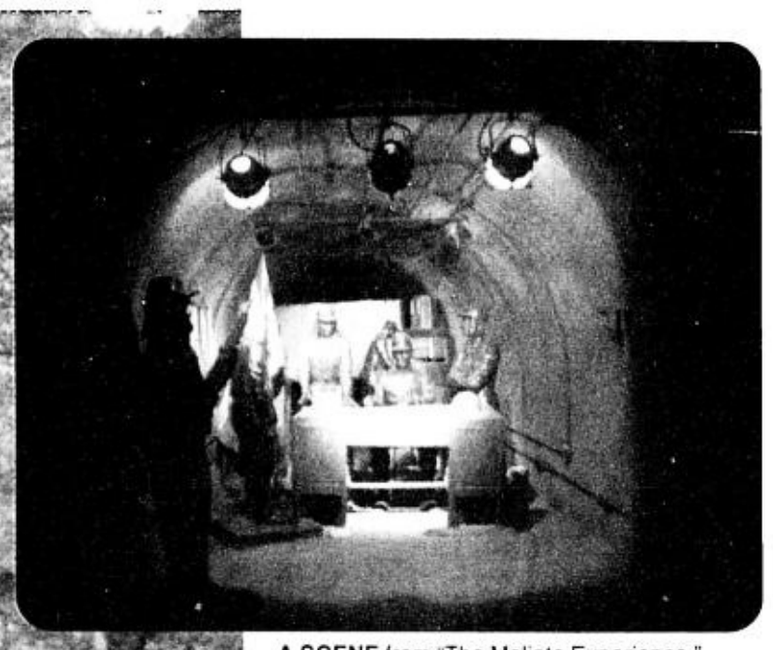
Three years later, it also became a virtual cemetery when close to 3,000 Japanese troops blew themselves up in honor of country and emperor in a single blaze of glory, rather than surrender to American liberators.

Scenes such as these are captured in true cinematic fashion at the refurbished Malinta Tunnel, now the venue of "The Malinta Experience," a 30-minute light-and-sound show written and directed by the late National Artist Lamberto Avellana. The show transports audiences back to WWII Corregidor sans real blood, bombs and bullets through actual war footages and life-like sculptures by Napoleon Abueva.

THE OTHER end of the 835-ft Malinta Tunnel



STUDENTS do their share for history by painting several vintage World War II mortars.



A SCENE from "The Malinta Experience."

When Corregidor first became accessible to the public, most of those who came to visit it were Filipino and American veterans and their families. The attraction also draws a substantial number of war veterans and tourists from Japan. Lately, however, local visitors have begun to outnumber foreigners, especially during peak summer months.

"Indeed, this is a very encouraging sign," says Martinez, who claims to be one of the first tour guides to win DOT's prestigious Kalakbay Awards. Sun Cruises boasts of a pool of proficient and entertaining tour guides, who know their history by heart and can speak several languages.

Government efforts culminated in the inauguration of "The Malinta Experience" on May 6, 1991. It has clearly become one of the island's major draws. The Corregidor Foundation is also in charge of running the attraction, which Avellana missed by a few weeks. Just like Quezon, the legendary filmmaker passed away without seeing his dream project.

"There was no regular ferry service to the island before," says Sun Cruises GM Cristina Cortez. "It was so near Manila, but it was inaccessible to ordinary tourists."

Sun Cruises, a subsidiary of Magsaysay Lines, operates a single "fastcraft" (it used to run two) that slices through Manila Bay's murky waters daily. Its clean air-conditioned cabin can seat up to 150 people.

And, oh, yes, there are clean his and hers toilets inside the boat so you don't have to control your bladders all the way from the CCP terminal in Manila to Corregidor's Engineering Dock. With Manila Bay's choppy waters, doing it in the middle of the bay is out of the question.

"The Philippines may not be as sophisticated as the US and Europe," says Cortez, "but we try to do our best to be at par in terms of cleanliness and safety."

Schedule

The day tour (P1,690 per person inclusive of lunch) begins a few minutes past 9 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. Guests are usually back in Manila before 4 p.m. Students who tour in groups as part of their schools' field trip are charged P450 per head. Veterans also get a 20-percent discount.

This summer, for instance, Sun Cruises is renting a bigger, no-frills boat to be able to allow more families to see the sites. As of this interview, Cortez has yet to come up with the exact price for the entire package. But if she can have it her way, families will shell out no more than P750 per member. Bring your own *baon*, please. Call Sun Cruises at 526-8888, 831-8140, 834-1523/6858.

Guests who want to stay an extra day or two can make prior arrangements at Sun Cruises' Manila office. You will need more time to tour a number of attractions by foot. Tour buses inspired by prewar cable cars are unable to go to certain areas where an old-cemetery, American-era escape tunnels and MacArthur's residence are hidden from view.

Nature-trippers will have a grand time scaling the island's virgin forests and uneven terrain. Hiking packages are classified into easy, medium and difficult.

What about landmines? The island has been cleared of such lethal devices years ago, says Martinez. If you happen to have a third eye, then perhaps the only thing to watch out for are ghosts from wars past. Sun Cruises also offers nocturnal hiking trips for the brave, indifferent, or simply foolish.

A walk through Corregidor in the dead of night? Why not if doing so with real and unseen friends is a lot more fun? Lately, the island has also become a preferred venue for team-building seminars, company-sponsored treasure hunts and other activities to promote bonding among managers and their subordinates.

The beach also provides an excellent swimming area as long as the water remains free of Metro Manila's trash. Believe it or not, there are seasons when plastic bags and various floating debris from the nation's capital find their way to Corregidor's pristine waters.

"Veterans have been classified as a fading market," says Cortez with a smile. "That's why we're making it an adventure island to attract younger people."

Where decades of study, through insipid books and uninspired teachers, have probably failed, a day-long trip to Corregidor may finally succeed in drawing Filipinos' attention to their country's rich and colorful past.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

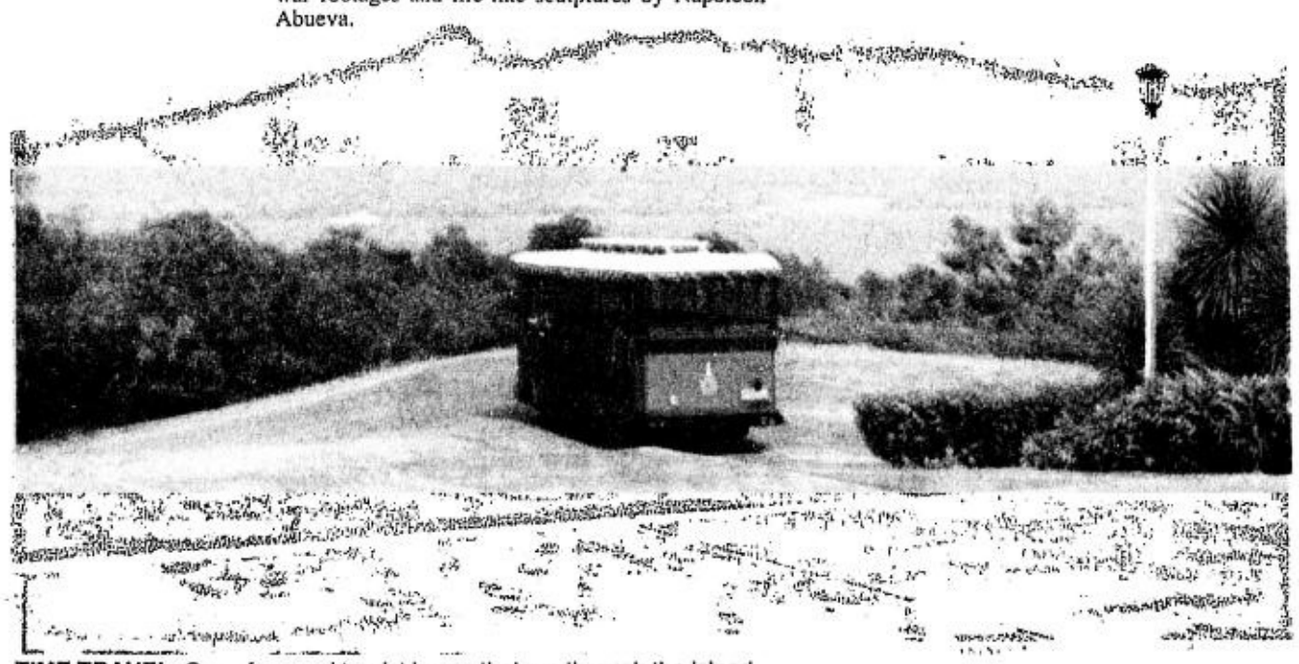
As if the dramatic narration by Frankie Evangelista, special effects and mood lighting weren't enough, voice talents who play the role of real WWII personalities could leave you in near tears as you advance from one lateral to the next. The blues, however, soon give way to an uplifting feeling from a simple yet moving finale. Enough said, lest we spoil the surprise.

Through the efforts of the Philippine Tourism Authority, Corregidor Foundation and Sun Cruises, the once remote island (26 miles west of Manila) guarding the mouth of Manila Bay is now a mere 55 minutes away by boat from the Bay Cruises Terminal in the CCP complex.

More accessible

Corregidor became more accessible to the public during the time of President Aquino. After recognizing the island's historical importance and tourism potentials, Aquino's Department of Tourism immediately buckled down to work. Before tapping Sun Cruises to provide Corregidor with regular ferry service, the government refurbished the existing road network within the island and added new ones.

A 30-room hotel was soon built followed by other recreational facilities. Aside from managing the daily tours, Sun Cruises also promotes the island and runs the hotel for the Corregidor Foundation. It, in turn, is in charge of the island's administration.



TIME TRAVEL. One of several tourist buses that run through the island.

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TRAVEL

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor

BLAZING the trail into TRANG

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY VOLT CONTRERAS

DOWNTOWN shopkeepers in Trang province in Southern Thailand must pay higher taxes if they put up frontage signs or billboard ads both in Thai and English. For peddling their goods or services in English connotes drawing many foreign, dollar-spending customers, and naturally the government would want a cut from that.

Foreigners are thus likely to be stalled by a language barrier out in the streets, where almost all business establishments—restaurants and coffee shops, groceries, dry goods stores selling the range from farming tools to computers—would rather stick to Thai than be taxed heavily just for being bilingual.

But maybe it's time to relax that peculiar tax law now, said Trang Gov. Chalermchai Preechanont, who needed an interpreter himself as he entertained a suggestion from one of the foreign journalists who were in town last month for a tour sponsored by Thai Airways.

The governor's concern about the need to translate street names and sidewalk menus—the uninitiated diner, by the way, must say *mei pet* ("not too hot") for the cook to go easy on the chili—illustrates the freshness of the concept of international tourism in Trang, a seaside province that glossy travel guides dub as a "relatively unknown and undeveloped" gem among Thailand's attractions.

Any study of how Thailand has overtaken most of its Southeast Asian neighbors in making tourism a major cash cow for the economy should include a look at Trang and how it's coming out of its shell to compete with the kingdom's more famous and better-packaged leisure destinations, like Phuket and Pattaya provinces.

Trang's domestic airport is only two years old, and its much-advertised allure is its unspoiled landscape.

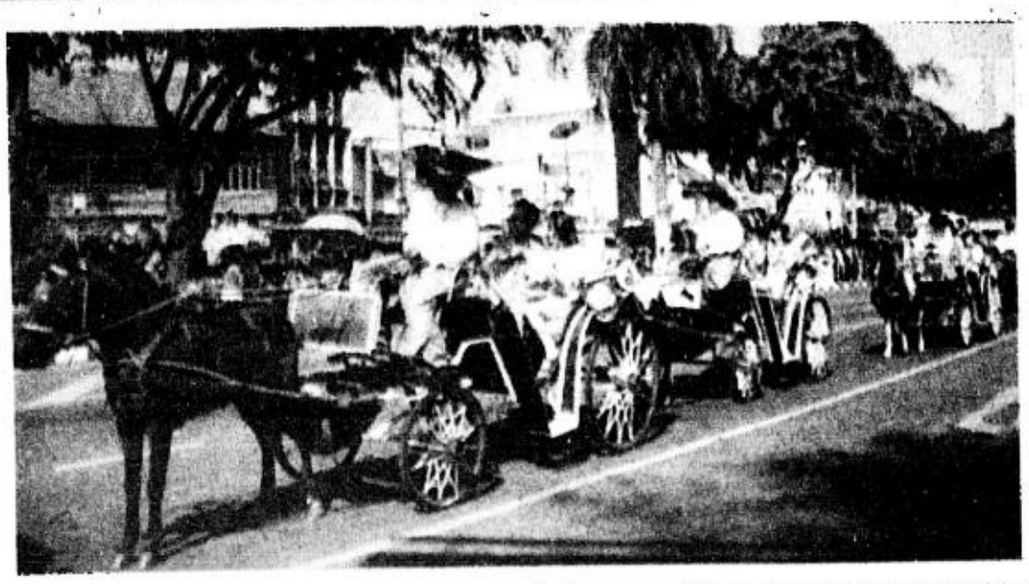
There are tranquil islands and yet pristine golden sand beaches; soft coral reefs awaiting divers' bubbly adulation; cave systems housing ancient Buddha statues and which vandals have not yet overrun; forest frontiers crossed only by wild mammals and exotic birds; and steep, gushing waterfalls (as many as 10 are easily accessible) whose cool waters and occasional rainbows can ease senses tautened by, say, a night of haggling over fake Rolex watches and other goods on Pat Pong Street, Bangkok's notorious red-light strip.

The map of Thailand looks like the left-side profile of an elephant's head, and Trang is somewhere in the lower half of the dangling trunk (almost along the same latitude as Mindanao's Basilan).

Facing the Andaman Sea (a part of the Indian Ocean), Trang has the longest, unbroken stretch of shoreline—119 kilometers—in all of Thailand, and Governor Chalermchai is quick to point out that "no large construction project is allowed near the beach to avoid damaging the environment." Pine, not the expected coconut, trees line the coast—and for a purpose. The wider spreading pine makes for a better buffer of the Andaman wind, taming it before it gets further inland.

As many as 46 islands and islets dot Trang's waters. It's also said to be the last remaining refuge of the sea cow (or *dugong)* in that country, the subject of a conservation awareness program regularly taught to schoolchildren.

The conservation theme is not confined to the flora and fauna, but also extends to Trang's ethnic traditions such as religious festivals and performance arts. Thai cultural icons—like shadow puppet shows, folk dances (featuring those ladies with ultra-long fingernails and pointed, golden head dresses), and indigenous musical numbers—are always part of the entertainment for, say, a visiting foreign delegation.



There's no night life to speak of, but who cares? Simple pleasures are a-plenty

DYAN Castillejo and husband Anton Garcia (above) are among the couples (top) treated like royalty.

KIDS line up for a cultural parade.

THE IDEA is to mix tradition with promotional gimmickry.

KRADAN and its beach are one of the "relatively undiscovered" attractions.

The province's most important religious event is the Vegetarian Festival, the start of the Taoist Lent usually marked in October, wherein devotees abstain from meat and make public acts of self-mortification like piercing their cheeks with steel rods, and staging colorful, noisy processions.

But, of course; tourism is not only about showing off the sights and sounds, but also getting visitors there in comfort and, as much as possible, in style. It is in this latter aspect that Trang's raw, virginal look ends and its world-class hosting aspirations begin to show.

A 40-minute ride from the capital, Trang City, to the main pier in Pak Meng—where "long-tailed" motorboats await passengers bound for the various resort islands—reveals the province's well-prepared infrastructure. Smooth roads cut through sparsely inhabited country, past uniform signposts that point to a phone booth every few hundred meters.

Before it took tourism this seriously, Trang already had its traditional sources of income as an agricultural province: 80 percent of its inhabitants (670,000 at present) are employed either in rubber and palm oil plantations or in the fishing industry.

In fact, Thailand's rubber industry was born here, and patches of perfectly aligned, maturing rubber trees—their straight, slender, whitish trunks turning bushy toward the top—are still a recurring roadside view on the way to the beaches. And it definitely says a lot about Trang, and about Thailand's tourism efforts in general, to see a British journalist effortlessly call his desk (most probably in London) on his cell phone, on a very clear signal, while his bus winds its way through centuries-old rubber plantations.

It is anticipated that a sustained tourism boom will see a new generation breaking many a family's longtime dependence on the soil for a living. And indeed, the new employment path is emerging. Governor Chalermchai said that in 1999, the year the airport opened, the province welcomed around 200,000 local and foreign visitors. Last year the guest list grew to 500,000.

There are so far six high-rise hotels in the city proper; only one, the Thamrin Thana, is a four-star. But the province offers about 2,000 hotel rooms, counting the less expensive, chalet-style accommodations on the island beaches.

For now, though, entertainment spots like karaoke bars, pubs and discos are mostly confined to the hotels. It's indeed one of those places which chooses to keep a low-rise charm as much as possible, where most restaurants, serving a wide sampling of Southern Thai cuisine, still prefer wooden chairs instead of monoblocks, catering to the ordinary working man and woman.

Trang's travel literature is honest enough to say that the city's night life "is not a key attraction," and it shows when one makes his first, after-dark stroll downtown. And for those without prearranged transport, there's the ubiquitous *tuk-tuk*, the local incarnation of the tricycle.

Weary visitors returning from the resorts may settle down to simple late-night pleasures at an open-air coffee shop, say, by the sleepy train station, and chat the evening away over cups of *ko-pii*, the local brew. A Thai host will likely offer, to go with the hot coffee, a plate of crunchy *roti* (fried *lumpia* wrappings) to be dipped in condensed milk. Such a frugal combination for a midnight snack shows Trang, for all the publicity blitz, still retaining the feel of a Thai *probinsya*.

But as its promoters often say, Trang is out to carve its own place on the international tourism map. Yet as Governor Chalermchai affably showed, the whole package can still be considered a work-in-progress that is very much open to suggestions.

But perhaps Trang's self-conscious efforts to invite and please the rest of the world—from putting up its own website *trangk.com* to conditioning the mind of the citizenry starting with its English—already present an inspiring portrait of a community developing a keen sense of place and stretching its potentials.

It's a feat whose value cannot be appraised by merely counting tourism dollars.

LONG-TAILED boats (above) are ready at the Pak Meng pier to ferry visitors from the Trang mainland to the island resorts (top).

THIS "mermaid" is actually a bride from Australia.

How deep is your love?

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

THE THINGS they do for love—and tourism.

Last Valentine's Day, the Southern Thailand province of Trang pulled off a publicity coup aimed at securing a place in the Guinness Book of World of Records and, more importantly, in the world traveler's itinerary.

For the second consecutive year, the Trang Underwater Wedding Festival made an international splash in gathering 34 couples—all licensed scuba divers from 20 countries including the Philippines—in a fancy nuptial ceremony where vows were exchanged and wedding certificates were signed with fish serving as witnesses.

The first edition last year actually served as Trang's coming-out party as a world-class tourist destination in Thailand. Back then, 29 couples from 28 countries took part, setting the previous Guinness record as the "largest underwater mass wedding" ever.

This year a "new record" was established. And the 34 pairs experienced what could arguably be the most unforgettable Valentine's Day of their lives, with the whole of Trang City, the provincial capital, treating them like royalty during their brief stay.

The couple from the Philippines—TV host Dyan Castillejo and her husband Anton Jose Garcia—and the other participating divers flew into Trang from Bangkok on Feb. 13, and were paraded downtown in colorful horse-drawn carriages, with local youths in traditional Thai costumes serving as sentinels. (Last year's couples rode on elephants.)

Apart from the Philippines and the host Thailand, the represented countries included the United States, Australia, China and Hong Kong, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Italy, South Korea, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom.

In a light moment with the INQUIRER, one of the media organizations invited by Thai Airways to witness the event, Dyan and Anton recalled how a Thai photographer asked them to do a "mouth-to-mouth" at one point in the parade. It turned out that the photographer wanted to take a shot of them kissing lips to lips.

The wedding proper on Feb. 14 was held at the resort island of Kradan, about an hour by ferryboat from the Trang mainland.

The couples, dressed in Thai island garb, first performed an ethnic nuptial ceremony that mainly consisted of sitting together before a long, ornamented table, getting symbolically joined by a white cord, and having the Trang governor "bless" them by pouring oil on their heads and water on their palms.

Then it was off to the beach to change and get into diving gear. By then Kradang's blue waters had become aisle and altar. Couples were lined up in smaller batches for the actual dive, while somewhere beneath the water's surface another wedding minister and the official underwater photographer waited. Representatives from Guinness watched the proceedings close by on land.

Dyan later recalled: "One at a time we descended to about 35 feet. The water was crystal clear, the fish were around to be our witnesses, and the white sand was our carpet.

"A white table was set up at the bottom. We were made to kneel and, with hand signals, asked if we were pledging our love for each other. The OK sign was the 'I do.'

"After that, certificates were handed to us...and up (back to the surface) we went. Some couples even managed to take away their regulators and sealed their love with an underwater kiss."

Month-long preparations courtesy of major sponsors Thai Airways, Time Magazine and the Trang Chamber of Commerce and Industry went into what promises to be an annual tradition in this coastal community, which boasts pristine sea and land attractions, a burgeoning tourist service industry, and a well-preserved indigenous culture.

A total budget estimated at 20 million baht, according to Trang Gov. Chalermchai Preechanont, fueled the elaborate production and merchandising campaign that drew close to 100 local and foreign media representatives and engaged the services of hundreds of Trang residents, especially cultural performers.

A farewell dinner and show by the beach, held for the couples, the media and other guests, and climaxing in a spectacular 10-minute fireworks display, completed the marketing ploy for Trang and showed the Thais' aggressiveness in promoting tourism.

But just how "official" is the wedding, really? Somehow, the question was not completely answered during the festivities. The couples, most of whom (like Dyan and Anton) were already officially married in their respective countries, anyway, and were invited by Thai Airways to "renew" their vows in Trang, were simply told during the orientation that they would be given this "wedding certificate" signed by the governor.

Well, that legal issue can go hang. Can there be anything more official and binding for people in love than a deep mutual pledge of devotion? Take that literally when in Trang.

SOUTH Koreans seal it with a kiss.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Summer special

TRAVELERS from the Philippines to the United States and Canada can earn free flights, upgrades or companion tickets faster than ever this season through Cathay Pacific's Asia Miles.

Economy-class passengers flying from Manila or Cebu to New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Vancouver or Toronto until June 30 will be earning double miles.

The offer is extended to all Asia Miles members residing in the Philippines as well as non-members who are applying for membership in the travel rewards program and who purchase an economy class ticket locally and travel to the US/Canada within the promotion period.

Also, passengers who apply for membership are entitled to 1,000 Asia Miles enrollment if they apply on or before June 30.

Cathay Pacific's reservation numbers are 848-2747 in Manila and 32-254-0746 in Cebu.

To Europe and more

ADAM'S Express Travel is offering various trips and tours this season.

The choices available are:

• Eastern Europe with optional extension to Russia. Highlights include devotions to the Divine Mercy and the miraculous Black Madonna in Poland, the Sto. Niño in Prague, an experience of a spa, Vienna, Budapest, Berlin, etc. In Russia, stops in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Novgorod.

• The *Feria de Abril* in Spain, combined with Fatima in Portugal and exotic Morocco.

• Cruises to the Caribbean Island or Scandinavia and Russia. (Reservations must be made early to ensure availability of the best affordable cabins.)

• Glimpses of Asia, including the Ankor Wat, Cambodia, the cultural capitals of Vietnam, the Grand Palace of Bangkok, and a pilgrimage to the miraculous Lady of Lavang.

For reservations, call 536-1736/1737 or 536-1898.

Travelers are advised to file for visas early. Visa processing can take two to three weeks.

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Let's Go!! MINI 4WD CAR RACING

TAMIYA

GETTING STARTED:

1 To join TAMIYA's Virtual Race, you must first register by typing [illegible] and send to 288.

[illegible]

2 Once registered, you can choose your car. First get a list of the available car models by typing [illegible]. To select a particular model, type [illegible] and send to 288.

[illegible]

[illegible] MS (Magnum Saber), SS (Sonic Saber), TX (Tridagger X), SA (Spin Axe), PS (Proto Saber JB)

[illegible]

3 To find out the current circuit for the day type [illegible] and send to 288.

[illegible]

4 You can now configure your car to suit the track conditions. Type [illegible] to view changeable items in your set up.

To modify your engine, type [illegible] and send to 288.
To modify front and rear rollers, type [illegible] and send to 288.
To modify tires, type [illegible] and send to 288.
To modify wheels, type [illegible] and send to 288.
To modify gear ratio, type [illegible] and send to 288.
To modify chassis, type [illegible] and send to 288.

5 In order to review your current set up, type [illegible] and send to 288.

[illegible]

Car Model: Magnum Saber, Motor: Hyper-Dash, Rollers: 19 17, Tires: Reston, Wheels: One-Way, GearRatio: 3.5:1, Chasis: Super 1

6 Now you can enter your car in the race, by typing [illegible]. Race starts at weekdays 6pm and weekends 11am and 4pm .To check results, type [illegible] and send to 288.

[illegible]

Race result: Eliminated at race 2, round 1 of 2, P4

7 Review you race record, by typing [illegible] and send to 288.

[illegible]

Race Starts: 7, Elimination Wins: 2, Race Wins:2, Points:20

8 To get help and keywords, type [illegible] and send to 288.

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A night of music, glorious food and prizes galore

THE GEORGE Washington Charity Ball, an annual fund-raiser for the American Association of the Phils., was held at the chancery and gardens of the American Embassy on Feb. 24.

Catered by Le Soufflé, the buffet dinner featured smoked salmon, baked roast beef and roast turkey. The individually mixed Caesar salads was a very nice touch. The dessert table, presided over by chef/partner Jessie Sincioco, was swamped by people vying for seconds. The traditional cherry pie was only one of the delicious offerings. A donation of wine from Ralph's was enjoyed by all.

Emcee Stan Hilker of Carepak kept the evening moving along nicely. Fr. Robert Tiling of Brent International School delivered the invocation and blessing, after which the US Marine Guards performed the color guard ceremony. Both Robert Robbins, president of the AAP, and charge d' affaires Michael Malinowski of the US Embassy gave brief welcome addresses.

Nonoy Lopez and his band provided music for the evening, along with an excellent pianist who performed throughout the cocktail hour. After dinner was held in the beautifully decorated garden, the guests returned to the ballroom for more dancing.

There were many generous donors for the event and both door and raffle prizes were exceptional. Donors such as Jeanne Goulbourn of Silk Cocoon and Robert Lane of Silahis Arts and Artifacts joined with Taiping Carpets, SOS International, the Herald Tribune, Jewelmer, Qantas and America West Airlines in giving away raffle prizes.

There were dinners and lunches and overnight stays from various restaurants, hotels and resorts such as New Orleans, Tamasha, Italianni's, Antonelli's, TGI Friday's, the Manila Hotel, the Peninsula, Shangri-La, Dusit, Discovery Suites, Stamford Court, Somerset Millennium, Oakwood and Villa Escudero.

Airline tickets to various domestic and international destinations were donated by Air Philippines, Cathay Pacific, Cebu Pacific, Delta Airline, Eva Air, Japan Airlines and the top prize—two round-trip tickets to New York—was donated by Northwest Airlines. Karen Malinowski picked the winners from the *tambiolo* and also presented the prizes to them.

KAREN Malinowski, wife of US embassy charge d' affaires Michael Malinowski, presents the Cathay Pacific ticket prize to John Herrman at the recent George Washington Charity Ball.

FROM LEFT, Leonila Alvarez, Bubut Carillo, Dr. Joe Carillo, Msgr. Monching Carillo, Ambassador Julio Cardenas-Velarde of Peru, Rose Celis, Lourdes Espino, Josephine Mercado and Cora Amante

San Pablo closes Jubilee Year with a book on its churches

THE DIOCESE of San Pablo, led by Bishop Francisco San Diego, celebrated the end of the Jubilee Year by coming out with the coffee-table book, "The Diocese of San Pablo and its Churches."

The book, which has more than 100 pages, features all the parishes and the parish priests of the diocese up to the year 2000. A special chapter is also dedicated to the 13 pilgrim churches of the diocese.

Launched recently at the San Agustin Plaza, Intramuros, Manila, "The Diocese of San Pablo and its Churches" hopes to raise funds for the different activities of the diocese, including the care of sick and aging priests.

The book launching, hosted by Bishop San Diego, was attended by several priests from the diocese as well as active members of the different parishes of Laguna. Also gracing the occasion was Peruvian Ambassador Julio Cardenas and former Tourism Secretary Mina Gabor.

The book was edited by Chit L. Lijauco and photographed by Mon Acasio. The book project committee was headed by Rev. Fr. Anthony Ricafort of the Santa Rosa de Lima Parish, with Conchita Delfino (president of the Santa Rosa de Lima Parish Pastoral Council) as cochair for marketing.

The book is available at selected parish offices in Laguna.

PEOPLE behind the book, editorial and marketing. From left, Susan Lijauco, Lally Tiongco, Chit Lijauco, Nonong Gregorio, Fr. Anthony Ricafort of Sta. Rosa de Lima Parish-Laguna, Conching Delfino, Leah Rico, Decdec Taylo and Zeny Dictado

AMBASSADOR of Peru, Julio Cardenas-Velarde, Chona Trinidad and Ronnie Alejandrino

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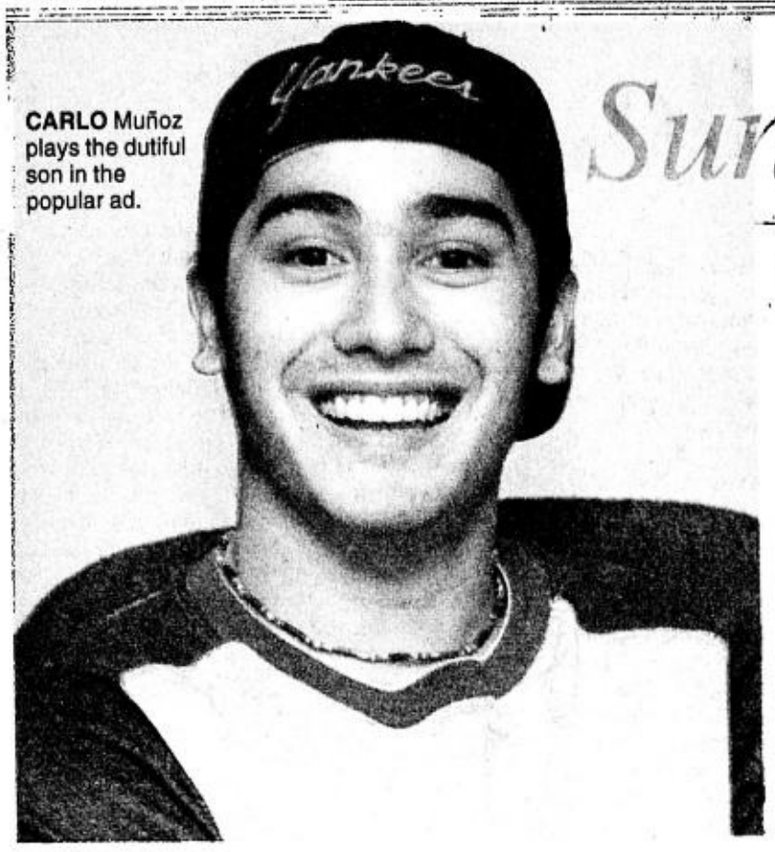
Sunday LIFESTYLE



CARLO Muñoz plays the dutiful son in the popular ad.

'Hello, Billy'

TODAY the much-awaited fourth in the series of "Hello, Billy" (a.k.a. "Grasya") ads for the Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) Company is being launched on network television and in newspapers.

At the heart of the highly popular series of ads is a mother-son relationship sustained by overseas phone calls. And that is so because the "Hello, Billy" ads are beamed on daytime and primetime TV, aired over the radio and printed on national dailies to encourage more Filipinos to make international direct dial (IDD) calls via PLDT.

PLAYTIME

By the staff

There was no need to market PLDT before but since monopolies were outlawed, stiff competition has made telecommunications a more exciting market. "Now we're actually convincing people to get a phone," says Claro "Ito" Ramirez, senior vice president of PLDT for GMM retail business services group. Not only that, the company wants people to reach out and touch someone many oceans away not just occasionally but as often as the spirit moves them.

Enter the "Hello, Billy" team. Conceived by a rambunctiously creative gang at Ace Saatchi & Saatchi advertising agency composed of vice president and management supervisor Gigi Garcia, account assistant Mike Constantino, creative director Merlee Jayme, art director Billy Samson and copywriter Daffy Jonson, the series hinges on the concern of a mother for her son Billy who lives someplace far away and cold. But not to worry, he has a girl. Her name is Gracia. And so the punch line in each commercial is a play on Gracia's name.

"*Disgrasya*," rues Mom in the first of the series after she finds out Billy is not falling apart and lonely after all. "*Disgrasyada*," concludes the mom in the second ad after Billy tells her Gracia has children to take care of. "*Sunud-sunod na grasya*," beams Mom after Billy informs her of being swarmed with calls from the Philippines asking if it is true that he's getting married.

Award-winning TV commercial director Raul Ona, who was lured away from architecture by the advertising business, also did the cinematography for each 30-second segment. The consultations among Ona, the cast, PLDT, and the creative team went on for hours.

"When we do a campaign, it's always a tri-media campaign," says Garcia. But we make sure that we use the execution that is best for print, TV, radio. Even on radio, the ad is not a replica of our TVC." So while no "Hello, Billy" ad ran on TV for Valentine's, there was one in the newspapers.

Mom is played by theater, TV and movie performer Aurora Uding, whose credits include the stage plays "Daloy ng Lason," "Anak Pawis," "Gintong Pamana." From stage, she moved on to television and doing commercials.

Billy is played by young ABS-CBN talent Carlo Muñoz, who has appeared in several commercials, none of which has caused a dent in his career as the PLDT series. His exposure as Billy has landed him parts in a TV soap and in two movies, one with Aga Muhlach and Joyce Jimenez and the other with Judy Ann Santos and Nida Blanca.

At first, the PLDT ad collaborators wouldn't commit about whether there was going to be another installment in the series when Lifestyle invited them to, well, grace Playtime. Like the rest of the country's media audiences, we were curious about Gracia's looks, about how the Billy-Gracia love affair was going to end and if Mommy was going to take things sitting down, with phone in hand, of course.

Did PLDT go to Ace Saatchi and say, "We want a series of ads"?

Gigi: Actually, the requirement was just to

HELLO/ p.H2

'Hello, Billy'

CLARO "Ito" Ramirez, senior vice president of PLDT for GMM retail business services group

Gigi: We recently won the Anvil Awards, an award of excellence for the campaign. Why did we win that when it wasn't a PR campaign? Because of the publicity that it generated. It did the PR program on its own. *Grabe 'yung* pick-up, unsolicited, *pati sa* text . . . (Laughter)

(From page H1)

do a TV commercial or a campaign, which includes radio and print, to promote the reintroduction... remember around July or August, all the telecoms offered a significant reintroduction of the IDD? So the challenge to us was to rise above that. They were all bringing down their IDD rates, so we had to create something that was very relevant to the market. We created a strategy, but, honestly, we did not think it was going to be a series.

Ito: IDD is where we really have a lot of competitions coming in, not only from landline but also from cellular... Now it's the same—40 cents. So now we want to take it into another level of marketing not just the price but more importantly the quality, reliability and also coverage.

There was no indication in the beginning that it was going to be a series?

Gigi: No, because the requirement was just a pure announcement, *pero* it was a pleasant surprise when everybody was talking about it. They became interested to know who Gracia was, so we said, "There is an opportunity here."

The creative team is from Saatchi?

Gigi: Yes, but of course it's a combination. Every creative team has a director, concept team, the writer, art director—they are the ones who really conceptualize all of these. Daffy is the writer, Billy Samson is our art director. *Sa kanya* actually *na*-inspire *'yung pangalan ni* Billy. Of course, a lot of alternative concepts *'yan* when we present to our clients, and our client liked our approach for many reasons: it's very Filipino, it captures the real mom-and-son relationship, very intriguing, so *sabi nila,* "Let's go for this."

How long did it take for you to come up with this concept?

Gigi: *Siguro* a couple of days for the concept and another couple of days for the clearances, *kasi meron 'yang mga* internal clearances, then we did the casting.

How do you do that?

Gigi: We have a casting team based on the storyboard, *s'yempre* our creatives has already an idea what kind of characters we will cast or we will project in our commercial. Mom should be 50-55 years old, very loving, she projects... it's a long list of attributes. So similarly with Billy, very young, ambitious, that's why he's in New York, he's trying to start up a new life.

It seems to me like he's a Mama's boy.

Gigi: He is?

Or is he just humoring Mom, who is overprotective?

Gigi: The mom is overzealous, *medyo may pagkamakulit.* (Laughter)

Raul: Overbearing *pero* lovable.

Gigi: But you will not hate her.

So Billy is supposed to be young and aggressive?

Raul: The fact that he is in New York, he's working, he has his own flat, *may sariling diskarte,* but *'pag nangungulit si* Mom, he still has time for her.

Mike: You will notice he is still respectful, *nilalambing pa rin n'ya.*

Gigi: *Pero may konting* rebellion in it, di ba? *"Oo na, Ma."*

What was it in Carlo's background that made you decide to get him?

Gigi: *Guwapo naman si* Billy, *ah.* (Laughter)

Raul: *T'saka pwede silang mag-nanay talaga.*

Carlo: Yeah, I think it's the chemistry.

Was that the first time you [and Aurora, who plays Mom] met?

Carlo: Yeah.

Aurora: But, surprisingly, both of us are with ATS. I belong to the Artist's Registry and he belongs to the Talent Center of ABS-CBN.

When you were conceptualizing the commercial, was it the original idea to focus on the mother-and-son relationship or were there other ideas?

Gigi: Without revealing our strategy, our competitors might copy us...(Laughter)

Meron na bang kumopya?

Gigi: They're trying...

Raul: *May mga* spoofs on TV...

Gigi: And *sa mga* comic strips.

But that strengthens the campaign, *di ba*?

Gigi: Yes. In fact we recently won the Anvil Awards, an award of excellence for the "Gracia" campaign. Why did we win that when it's not *naman* a PR campaign? Because of the publicity that it generated, it did the PR program on its own. *Grabe 'yung* pick-up, unsolicited, *pati sa* text... (Laughter) Anyway, it's landline *kasi*, it's not cellular, therefore family-driven. We have to depict the typical Filipino family, unlike cellular which would need individuals, very lifestylish, ours *dapat* traditional family values. It was inherent , it was natural for us to show a family *kasi* if you notice, *ang* strategy is to increase frequency of calls, *"Tawag na nang mas madalas"* is our line, so *sino naman ang tatawag nang mas madalas, di ba ang* Mommy?

***Ang paranoid na* Mommy... (Laughter)**

Gigi: Yes, especially for somebody *na unico hijo, di ba*?

***Na*-establish *ba na unico hijo*?**

Raul: *'Yung mga unang* commercial, picture *lang ni* Billy, *eh*, graduation, *tapos wala nang iba.*

***So gaano katagal ang* shoot?**

Gigi: Because of cost... (Laughs)

Raul : Because of time table, *lahat dito pati 'yung* shooting, *dapat* you have to shoot really fast, turn-around time...

Anong hinahabol n'yo?

Raul: Schedules, break days, *ang mga* passport *nga namin punong-puno na nga kakapabalik-balik namin sa* New York. (Laughter)

Gigi: We're like a typical TVCs , we shoot for two full days.

Studio *ito*?

Raul: New York *'yung kay* Billy. (Laughter) *Si* Mommy *dito lang.* (Laughter)

Come on, *bilib na ko sa* PLDT *kung gan'on...*

Carlo: *Ako lang naman sa* New York, *eh, nagda*-dial *lang sila* through IDD. (Laughter)

Raul: The second time *na pinakita si* Gracia it was in front of a preschool in New York.

She is supposed to be a preschool teacher?

R: Yeah.

Do you only have one writer?

Gigi: It's a team.

Did you have to change on the spot while shooting it, like the dialogues?

Raul: *Siguro 'yung mga* minor *lang kasi minsan kung ano 'yung mas natural, pero 'yung* main thought *kung ano 'yung nasa* guidelines, *'yung* theme, *nandoon 'yun.*

'Yung mga* punch lines like *"Ay! disgrasyada!"

Mike: They really took time to finalize that.

Raul: *Ang nire*-refine *d'yan 'yung* manner of saying, *kasi* 1,000 takes *ka d'yan di ba,* Mommy? (Laughter)

Gigi: *Paano sasabihin 'yung disgrasyada na*

HELLO/ p.H3

'Hello, Billy'

(From page H2)

hindi nakakainis, di offensive, *pati 'yung* intonation *ng boses, 'yung* expression *n'ya,* so *minsan maganda na 'yung boses tapos napagano'n nang konti 'yung mata ni* Mommy, *ay, mataray!* (Laughter)

Mike: *Si direk nagshu-*shoot *ng* degrees, *minsan medyo mataray, naka-*smile, *tapos 'pag in-*edit *na lang, doon na lang namimili.*

Raul: *Madali 'yung* acting, *mahirap 'yung* snow, *eh.* (Laughter)

What do you think of the commercial?

Aurora: I think it's very close to my real life, because that's what I really am. I'm a *makulit* mom, so feel *ko s'ya*, it's me.

Do you have kids abroad?

Aurora: I used to; my son used to be in Detroit, that's where he studied, *kaya alalang-alala ko* that time when he was there. *'Yung tawagan namin* as is exactly as it was in the commercial.

Tumatawag ka palagi?

Aurora: Yeah, *pero* most of the time on the reverse, it's my son who keeps on calling me up *kasi* miss *na* miss *n'ya ang bahay,* "Mommy, *gusto ko nang umuwi."* I have to call back *para sabihin naman na* "D'yan ka muna anak, you better finish first."

How about you, Carlo, what do you think of the commercial?

Carlo: Well., *medyo* realistic *din kasi 'yung* mom *ko nasa* Taiwan *naman,* so sometimes, *tumatawag kami ng* family *ko sa kanya.*

What does she do? Does she work there?

Carlo: Yeah.

How long has she been there?

Carlo: Almost a year, *noong nag-*start *'yung* PLDT commercial. (Laughs)

Do you miss her?

Carlo: Of course.

But you have no Gracia *talaga*?

Carlo: *Wala.*

How close is your Billy character to real life?

Carlo: *Medyo* close *nga kasi sa* family *namin, ako 'yung* closest *sa* mom *ko* so it's kinda realistic.

You didn't have a difficult time identifying with the character?

Carlo: No, especially with Mommy here. (Laughs)

Raul: Mommy *na nga lahat ang tawag sa kanya, eh.*

People call you Billy?

Carlo: (Nods) It's an advantage for me *kasi* it's much easier to communicate with people, ice breaker *nga, eh.* "Billy, Billy!" "Hey, hi!" *lalo na kunwari bibili ako sa* store, they call me Billy. (Laughter)

Do you have other shows?

Carlo: It's a soap, *'yung* "Pangako sa 'Yo," I'm a cast member.

Did something come your way because of the PLDT commercial, like an opportunity to be on a show?

Carlo: Yeah, *kasi 'yun nga,* talk of the town *'yung* Billy, so *'yung mga* producers *medyo* intrigue *sila, kinuha nila ako* or "*O, si* Billy, *makakatulong siya sa* promotion *ng* show, so *'yun...*

Three *na 'yung* commercial, *di ba?*

Raul: The first one *'yung* "Disgrasya!," the second one *nakita natin sa* school *si* Gracia, the third one *si* Joey *at t'saka 'yung mga* ex-girlfriends *n'ya.*

AURORA Uding is the mommy who can't let go.

Are Billy and Gracia living in?

Gigi: *Ay, hindi.* ***Di ba nagluto si* Gracia?**

Raul: *Nagkape lang, kaya nga* if you notice *pati 'yung* subtleties *noon sa* second episode, *galing sila sa* play, *may* ticket *pa doon ng* Broadway, *ang* coat *ni* Gracia, *nakapatong sa may harap . . .* So if somebody questions, *kaya nga ayan 'yung* purse *n'ya, ayun 'yung* coat *n'ya,* and *kung doon s'ya nakatira, bakit s'ya naka-*evening gown *sa loob ng bahay, si* Billy *bihis na bihis?*

Gigi: *...na pinatawag ni* Mommy *para ma-*slow down *'yung* relationship.

You've probably been asked about Joey.

Gigi: Yes.

And what's the answer?

Raul: *Taga-*Ace Saatchi. (Laughter)

What is Billy's relationship with Joey? Is Joey gay or straight?

Carlo: That's the mystery. (Laughter)

Gigi: What do you think? (Laughter) It's how you perceive it.

Will there be a fourth one?

Gigi: *Parang kailangan, di ba*? There are still some unresolved questions. I think it's safe to say *na* people are anticipating another one...

You don't know yet or you just don't want to tell us?

Gigi: We don't know what will happen *pa kasi* in the next few... but I think we should *kasi nga* we don't want our audience... *bitin, eh, di ba*?

But maybe that's the way you want it...

Gigi: Yeah, actually now that it is a series, that's how we want to design it. The people are hungry to see what's next, *gano'n ang* telenovela, *di ba*?

But you don't want it *naman* to drag on *na* it's gonna lose luster.

RAUL Ona, director and cinematographer PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

There are commercials like that... stretched *na* stretched *na*...

Gigi: Actually, that's the challenge *nga kapag may mga* sequel...

How effective was the campaign?

Gigi: Well, the fact that we moved on means it's working, otherwise *kasi,* if not, we're the first one to say let's stop this, it's not working.

***Tumaas ba ang* talent fees *ni* Mommy and Billy?**

Aurora: Of course. (Laughter)

***Paano 'yung* director, with every series *ba, tumataas ba 'yung* talent fee?**

Raul: Hmm... *kasi* I direct TVCs full-time so aside from PLDT, I do a lot of stuff , *sa* Ace Saatchi, *iba-ibang produkto 'yun.*

So you have regular fee?

Raul: Actually, project-dependent *'yun, eh,* so depending on the requirements.

Carlo, would it be hard for you to get other commercials?

Carlo: Maybe, *na-*identify *na ko sa* Billy, *eh.*

Do you have in your contract *na* you cannot do other commercials?

Carlo: If it's a direct competitor.

What other commercials have you done so far aside from PLDT?

Raul: I did the Tide commercial, *'yung batang tinutukso nilang baboy; 'yung* series *ng* Smart, *'yung* family *sa* van, *'yung* "Don't forget my Wonderbra"...

There are some directors who have a field of specialization , action, comedy...

Raul: Some directors specialize, *eh. Ako naman* I don't want to, I just don't wanna be box-typed...

Writers also have their own styles, *sino 'yung pang ganyan... pang ganito...*

Gigi: Actually, *dapat hindi;* if you're creative you should be able to write, from laundry bar to fashion, *di ba*?

For example, your team at Saatchi, *puro* PLDT, *hindi ba gan'un*?

Gigi: For a certain period of time, they're assigned their accounts for the next six months, then we rotate. That's good for their training and they give fresh perspectives for any brand.

Mommy, how would you like the series to end?

Aurora: *Siguro,* a wedding of Billy and Gracia.

Raul: Wedding *ni* Mommy. (Laughter)

Gigi: With the dad of Gracia. (Laughter)

Aurora: *Siguro, para naman* enjoy. (Laughter)

Widow *ba si* Mommy?

Raul: *Abangan!* (Laughter)

***Sino'ng* in-charge *sa pagbuo ng mga* situations?**

Gigi: The creatives.

There was no particular person?

Gigi: We wouldn't know if it came from one person *kasi nga* we brainstorm, we meet them and brief, we talk about what we want to see, what are the approaches we want to look at, we agree as a team with the account management, with their account planning and with the creative. Based on that, they go on their own, develop the idea into a storyboard.

Raul: Like the character of Billy alone, *ang* basis *nga si* Billy, *'yung* art director, *pero* the way Billy was structured, *may galing kay* Daffy *doon, may galing kay* Merlee, *ang pagdadamit n'ya galing kay* Billy *'yon.* So *si* Billy complex *na tao dahil ilang tao ang nag-*create *sa kanya. Si* Mommy *ganon din, di mo pwedeng sabihin na si* Mommy gentle mommy, like they would say *duster, pero teka, di pwedeng ganyang duster, dapat ganitong klaseng duster... 'yung salamin na ginagamit ni* Mommy, *ang haba ng diskusyon doon, pinagdiskusyunan 'yon kung magsasalamin ba s'ya o hindi, 'yung lulutuin n'ya, ano ba 'yung lulutuin nya...*

Si Billy, *'yung* art director, he really lived in America, so *kabisado niya 'yung* life *ng estudyante ka lang hanggang nagtatarabo ka doon, nandito ang* parents *mo,* picky siya *pati mga* correct tie, *ano'ng season 'yan; si* Merlee *naman* is a mom *na* very hip, very creative, *pero dati madre s'ya pero di mo mai-*imagine *na madre; si* Daffy, very funny, *s'ya 'yung nagsusulat,* jolly person...

Gigi: Actually, it all starts with a concept, we put on a storyboard, stick drawing *pa lang 'yon,* then when we move to production it becomes real, you can imagine the preproduction, two days before the shooting , then we talk about everything...

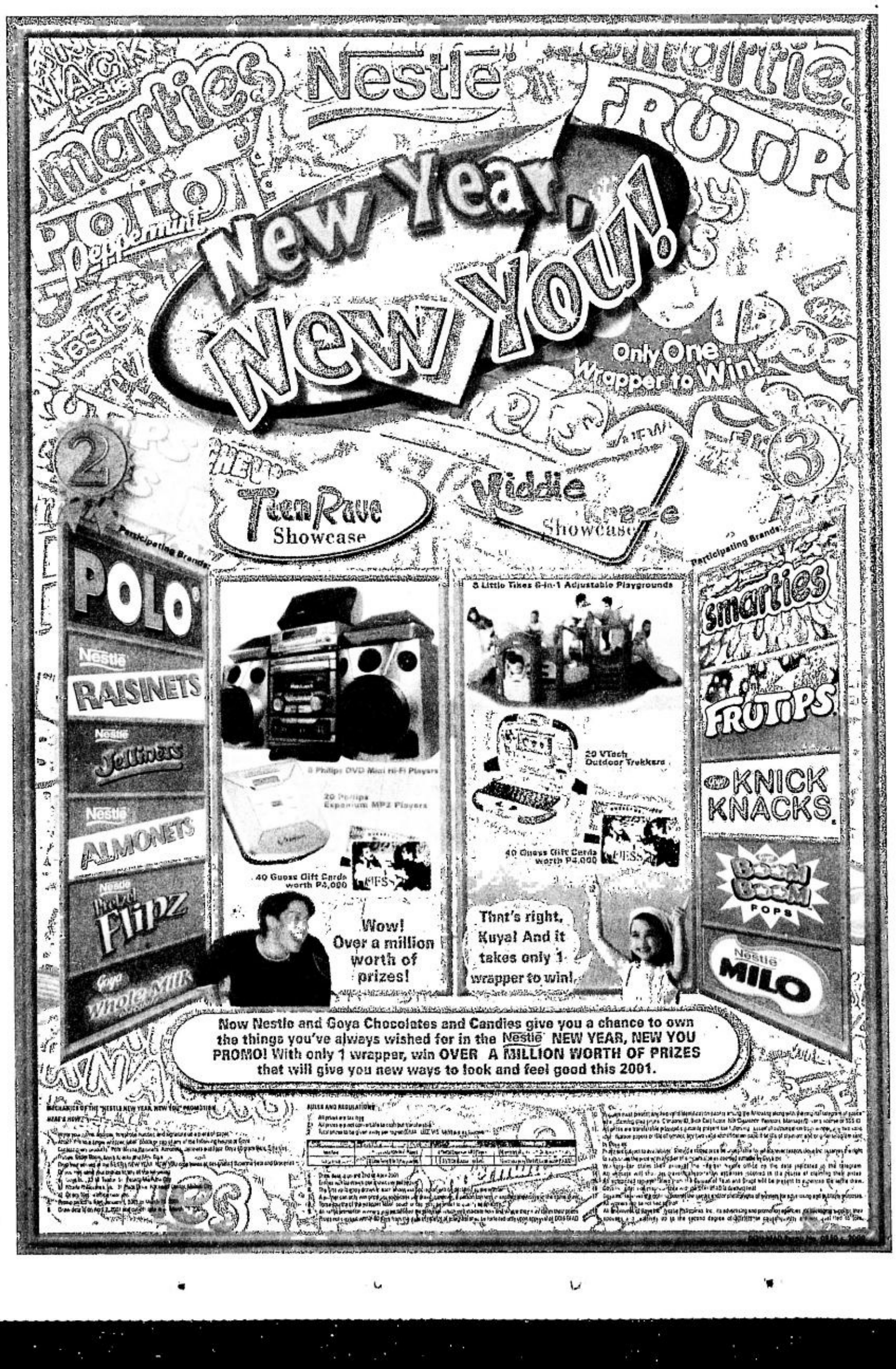
Raul: *Sa* team *talaga* everyone contributes [ideas], *eh.*

Carlo, before PLDT, you had not appeared in other commercials?

Carlo: I did, *marami na, pero di katulad ng* impact *nito.*

How about you, Mommy?

HELLO/ p.H4



'Hello, Billy'

(From page H3)

Aurora: The most popular before Billy was the Jollibee mommy in Hong Kong. I was the stupid lady who bought a lot of goodies *doon sa* Metrorail *na naiwan,* in Bayer Aspirin, *naiwan ko 'yung kalahati* so everybody was saying, *"Ang tanga naman niya,"* so *parang meron ding dating sa tao* (Laughter), *naging lola sa* Quick Chow noodles, Eight O'clock, and a lot more.

Is there good money in doing commercials?

Aurora: Oh, yes, better than TVs and movies, and less draining. *Mas* okay *naman 'yung* feeling *na nagwo*-work *ka* with the people who are involved in doing commercials than with the movies...

Raul: *Kaya lang di nakaka-sama sa* New York *si* Mommy *kaya nagtatampo.* (Laughter).

Aurora: *Oo nga, eh, kaya ang plano ko nga* wedding in New York.

How about Billy?

Carlo: Of course, wedding din in New York.

***Para naman mapakita n'yo si* Gracia.**

Raul: *Maganda si* Gracia.

Carlo: *Maganda siya.*

Gigi: How do you picture Gracia?

Super sexy *siya, naka*-backless *siya doon, eh. Sino nga ba sya?*

Aurora: *'Pag ni*-reveal *baka madisgrasya!* (Laughter)

She's a bold star *daw*?

Raul and Gigi: Ah, no.

Didn't she appear in Metro magazine?

Raul: It's so easy to claim that, *eh.* You saw *naman* the first Billy, *di ba*? Portions of Gracia were shown, *mga* hints *na* who she is, *tapos dinevelop* mo the second one, *ah,* Gracia is a preschool teacher. How can she be a starlet? *At saka, mukha ba s'yang* starlet? Gracia has never been... you get a glimpse of Gracia's character in the past TVCs but you have never really seen her, not yet.

If it were up to you, would you show Gracia's face?

Aurora: *Siguro pwede din para 'yung tao, kasi pag masyado naman 'yung* waiting *ng tao baka magsawa na sa kakahintay,* at a certain point it has to be revealed.

Carlo: *S'yempre naman, gusto ko rin i*-introduce *sa* Mommy *ko.* (Laughter)

Raul: *Oo naman.*

So *pang*-ilan, *pang*-fourth o pang-fifth?

Raul: *Abangan.* (Laughter)

Are you still talking about it?

Gigi: Yes, and every new commercial is a new creative development. We do surveys every now and then, test the reaction of the viewers... First, we ask what they remember to see *kung ano ba 'yung mga* memorable elements. Gracia and Joey from the past materials are the most memorable. So *sabi namin may* opportunity for another... then toward the end we ask them, "Do you want to see another commercial?" Almost all, about 98 percent said yes. Then we ask "What do you want to see?" and *'yung mga* responses *nila,* they want to see a wedding, they want to see the face of Gracia... and at a certain point we would have to fulfill those desires of the consumers, otherwise *mapipikon na sila, eh.*

So *mataas ang* percentage *na gustong makita si* Gracia?

Gigi: Yes, *ang maganda doon nagsa*-suggest *sila,* they are very involved in the story. As long as people would tell us that they want to see more, I think we have to fulfill that.

Pero di siya pwedeng maging sobrang* sexy *kasi* preschool teacher *s'ya, eh.

Raul: We just gave hints, *eh,* we never showed Gracia. Like *si* Billy *din, di naman namin kinuwento na si* Billy, like you ask us what is Billy's character, nothing was ever said in the commercial, *pero* hints on the way he talks, the way he dresses, *pero walang sinabi, walang pinakita.* So *'yung mga tao sila 'yung nagsasabi. 'Yung mga* boys *ang* interpretation, *si* Gracia killer; *'yung mga* Mommy, *si* Gracia lovable; *'yung mga may* crush *kay* Billy, "Hmph, *pangit 'yang si* Gracia:" (Laughter) so *kanya-kanya, di ba*?

Ito: Gracia is a Filipina who was raised in the US but still tries to retain a lot of Filipino values and culture. She's obviously very attractive, sexy, but then that's not the only reason Billy likes her (Laughter). She cooks, *nag-aalaga ng bata, nagtitimpla ng kape,* outside of that is she's I guess very personable, someone you'll bring home to mommy, especially this mommy, very caring *si* Mommy. *Di s'ya* celebrity. She's someone perfect *sa mata ni* Billy, but at the same time *magugustuhan ni* Mommy, maybe she's not perfect to other people *pero* as long as perfect *s'ya* for Billy and Mommy, that makes the whole world.

TNT (*tago ng tago*) *ba si* Billy?

Raul: *Ah, hindi.*

Gigi: Billy works in an office, *di ba* we showed him working in an office? He's not yet an executive, he's 23, a struggling professional.

How did he get there?

Aurora: *Mapera si* Mommy. (Laughter)

Carlo: *Kaisa-isang anak.*

Are Billy and Gracia living in?

Gigi: *Ay, hindi.*

***Di ba nagluto doon si* Gracia?**

Raul: *Nagkape lang, kaya nga* if you notice the subtleties *noon sa* second episode, *galing sila sa* play, *may* ticket *pa doon ng* Broadway, *ang* coat *ni* Gracia *nakapatong sa may harap...* So if somebody questions, *kaya nga ayan o 'yung* purse *n'ya, ayun 'yung* coat *n'ya,* and *kung doon s'ya naka-tira, bakit s'ya naka*-evening gown *sa loob ng bahay, si* Billy *bihis na bihis.*

So, are you saying they don't have sex?

Raul: We were... the question was, if they were living together. (Laughter)

It's New York, they're young...

Carlo: *Huwag kayong maingay, magagalit si* Mommy. (Laughter)

Gigi: They're Filipinos, they go to Mass. Remember, *"Nagsimba ka na ba?"* Mommy checks from time to time what Billy is doing...

Mike: *Tsaka 'pag tumatawag s'ya gabi.* (Laughter)

What if Gracia picks up the phone when Mommy calls?

Gigi: Never. (Laughter) Maybe those little nuances help establish that Gracia is a respectable and desirable woman.

Raul: *May mga* perception *nga* like *sabi n'yo si* Billy *mukhang* Mama's boy, *minsan 'pag sinabi mo na, "Ah, taga*-New York *'yan," iisipin mo 'yung mga* harsh words *na pagsagot* or *walang panahon sa magulang,* but despite his being independent, he's still

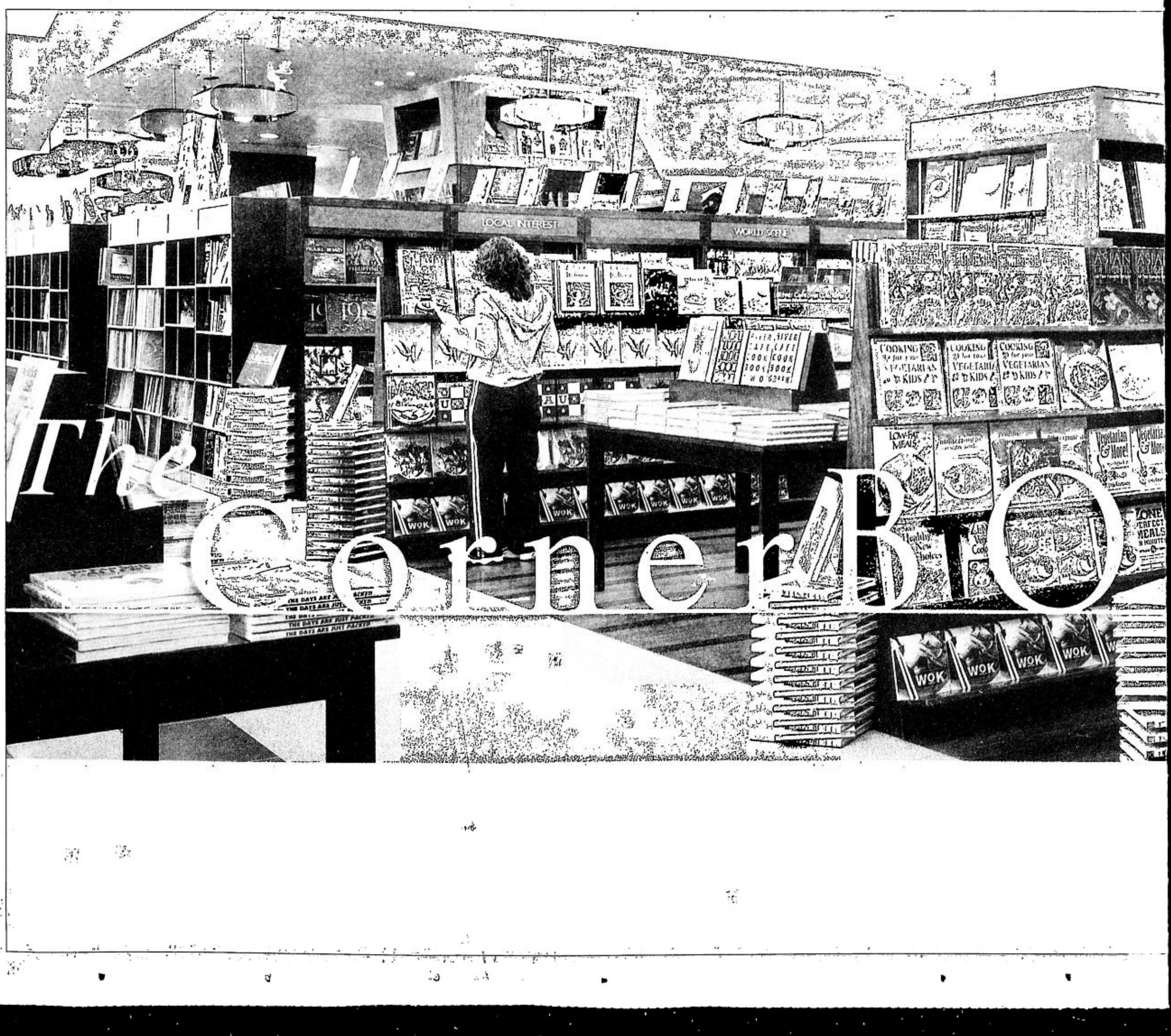
HELLO/ p.H7

CREATIVE TEAM. Merlee Jayme, creative director, Daffy Jonson, copywriter, and Billy Samson, art director

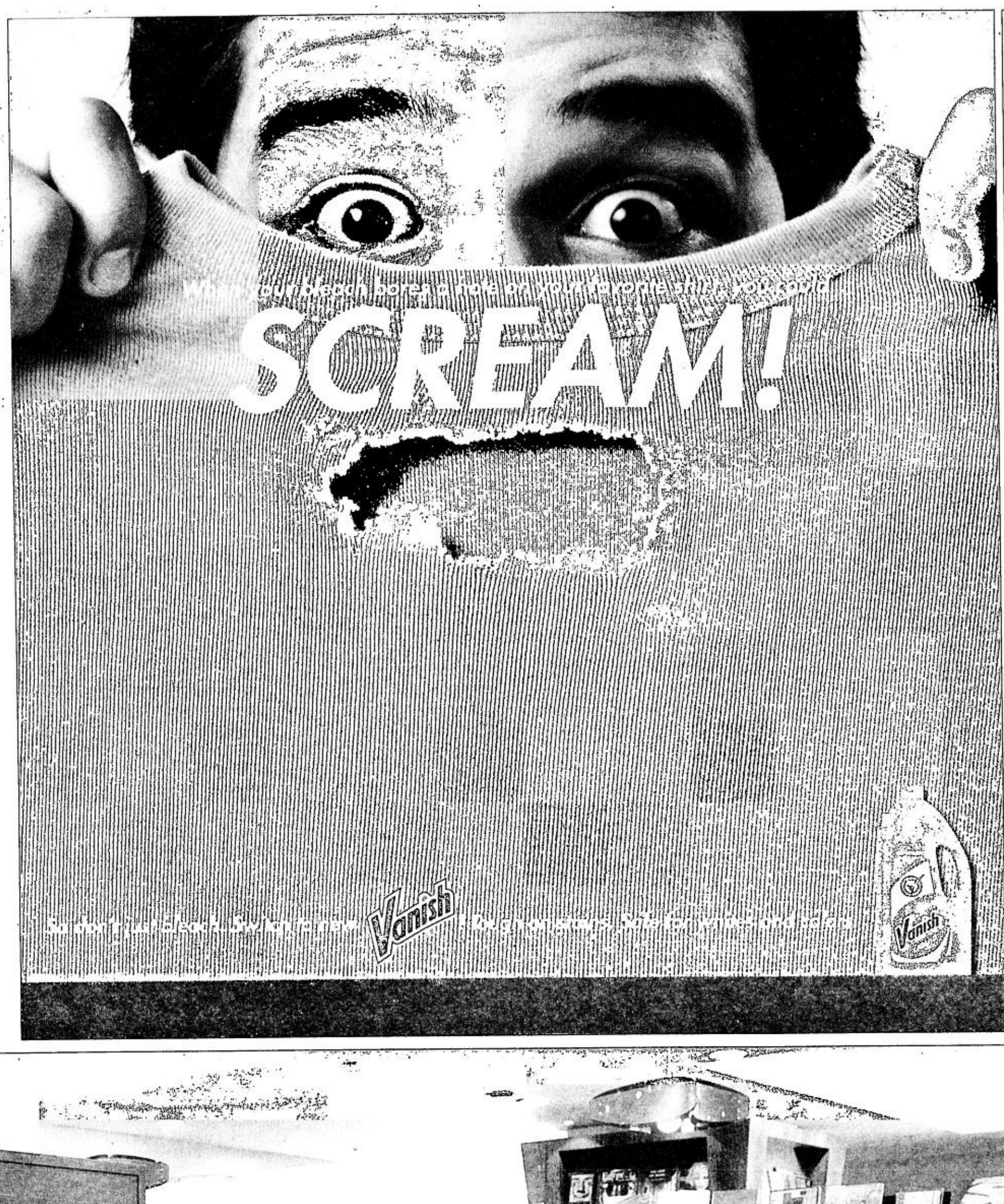
GIGI Garcia, vice president and management supervisor for Ace Saatchi, ad agency for PLDT

So, are you saying they don't have sex? Carlo: *Huwag kayong maingay, magagalit si* Mommy. (Laughter) **Gigi:** They're Filipinos, they go to Mass. Remember, *'Nagsimba ka na ba?'* Mommy checks from time to time what Billy is doing . . .

MIKE Constantino of Ace Saatchi



The CornerBO



There's a loud clamor for new Vanish!

And why shouldn't there be when bleach can permanently damage your favorite shirt! You've also had it with the torturous ritual of second soaping those stains off!

So switch now to new Vanish In-Wash Stain Remover!

Vanish has a breakthrough Non-Chlorine Formula that is guaranteed to remove even the toughest stains without harming the colors and fabric of your clothes. In fact, Vanish multiplies the stain removal action of your detergent resulting in a much cleaner wash! So never scream again over clothes damaged by bleach. Use Vanish now!

GUARANTEED

Using Vanish is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. When using Vanish Liquid, add 4 capfuls to your favorite detergent. Then handwash. For machine wash, add 6 capfuls to the detergent.

2. For tough stains, add Vanish Liquid directly to the stained fabric. Soak in your favorite detergent plus Vanish for at least 30 minutes. Then wash.

3. When using Vanish Powder, add 20g to your favorite detergent for handwash and 30g for machine wash or about half the amount of your detergent.

Don't just bleach.

Vanish

BOOKSTORE
by Rockwell

That the neighborhood bookstore carries enough titles to rival the world's best bookstores is no accident. The bookstore is Page One. The neighborhood is Rockwell.

You'll find Page One at the ground level of Power Plant Mall. Stroll around and get a feel of the neighborhood. If you enjoy it, it might interest you to know that there are select residential apartments still available – and ready for moving in. Ask about the new financing terms and you may be in for an even more pleasant surprise.

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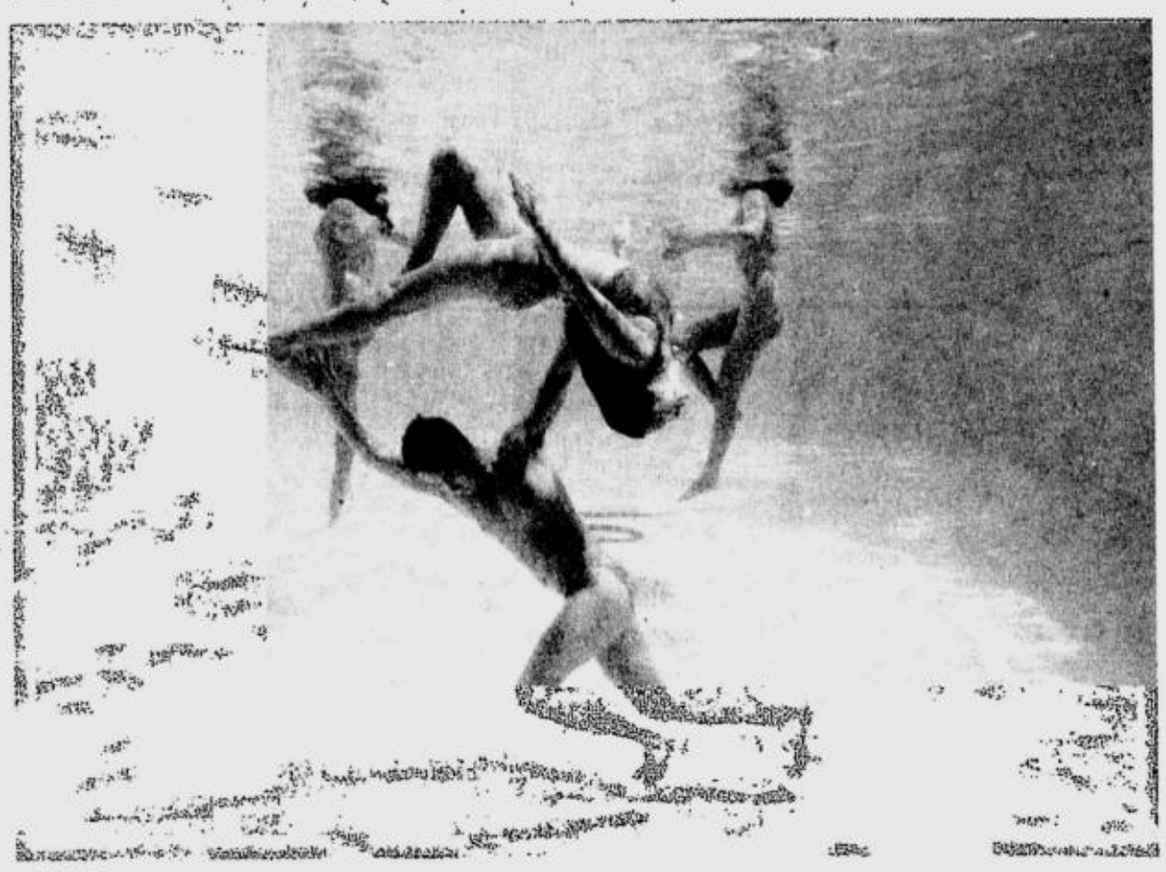
Rockwell Center



ATLAS form

ACRO-JACK

Dive into another world

CLOVER forward tuc

BY ROWENA C. BURGOS
PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

THEATER enthusiasts know that "Aida" is Giuseppe Verdi's opera, sung by stars with strong lungs and finely tuned ears. To a group of underwater performers, however, outstanding lungs and ears also count because of the pressure of being underwater.

They are not divas but aqua ballet performers, their routine requiring they go more than 10 ft underwater on a single breath of air. Composed of Lucille Salvador, Joy Ayob, Honeybelle Alcazar and Maui Caringal, the group can be considered free divers because they are like fish, without tanks of air.

Watching the four blend the art of dancing with the skill of swimming at the Giulin Restaurant of Sulo Hotel in Quezon City gives viewers a feeling that the performers are in another world, where there is no gravitational force, no color, no noise.

"One does not descend to look around but to look into oneself. It's a long jump into the soul," says Salvador, who has been swimming since she was 7 years old. Together with her six siblings, she was enrolled by her parents at a YMCA program in Cotabato.

Salvador shares a passion for water with Ayob, Alcazar and Caringal that it's not surprising to see them effortlessly move through the water.

Aqua ballet performers without air tanks dish out dazzling routines

It was at the very young age of 4 that Ayob was taught by her uncles to swim in the streams and rivers of Zamboanga. "But what I really loved during my elementary days was ballet. I even used to dream about it."

On the other hand, Alcazar joined the swimming group of a sports club at 8 and participated in competitions. "I began to neglect my studies so I was forced to stop my swimming activities. After finishing high school, my father encouraged me to join the Aqua Belles."

Caringal, a management graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, used to be a member of the university's varsity team.

Salvador, a medical technology graduate of Centro Escolar University, Ayob, who took up computer secretarial at the Cora Doloroso School, and Alcazar are now working full-time at Sulo Hotel as food checkers and Aqua Belles.

Feat of excellence

The underwater routine boasts exhilarating leaps and tumbles that were handed down by a group of professional Australian swimmers, the first batch of aqua ballet performers at Sulo Hotel when it was established by Leandro Enriquez in 1967.

"Since then, the hotel has been recruiting trainees for this act. One time we got more than a hundred calls from applicants who were trimmed down to five. But due to the extensive training, they all backed out," says Miok Loyola, PR manager of Sulo Hotel, who also proudly notes that it's the only venue in Asia that features such a presentation.

At present, the hotel is looking for pleasant-looking men and women with slender bodies who are willing to undergo a fierce training regimen for one month. Call Miok Loyola at 924-5051 to -71.

The Aqua Belles present three sets of a 30-minute act from 7:45-9 p.m. Monday to Friday. Their basic routine includes the clover forward tuc, acro-jack, Dyesebel, standing in square and forward pike. Such exercises display the human body in such elegant and harmonious form. Although the aqua ballet technique is strict and the training is strenuous, the results on an "underwater stage" is natural and beautiful. It makes all the hard work of Salvador, Ayob, Alcazar and Caringal worthwhile.

Because they don't use compressed air, they can surface rapidly without risking the build-up of nitrogen bubbles in the blood that divers with tanks must guard against.

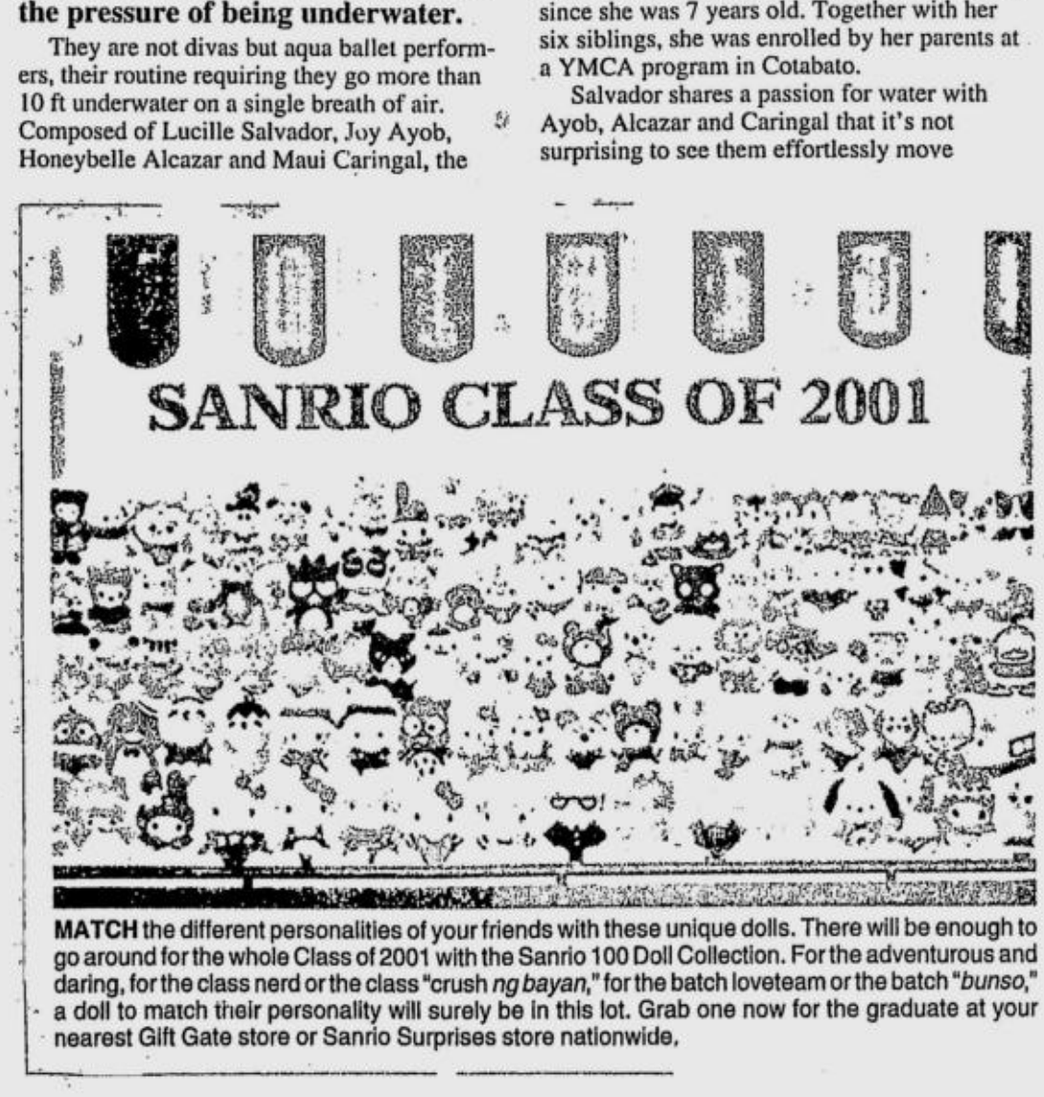
"But accidents can still happen like getting cramps or a misstep which could cause a twisted shoulder. So one should learn the basic stunts, floating and tiptoeing. The feet and fingers should be close together while performing underwater," Salvador explains.

She also adds that although lung capacity is crucial, more important are one's ears, muscles and mental preparation. "You have to banish your fears, worries and distractions because they consume energy."

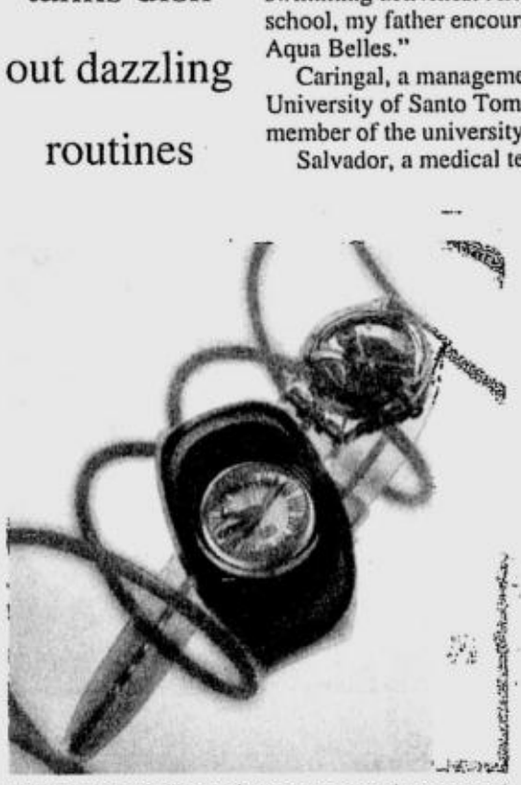
Salvador says there are two essential rules for those who want to learn aqua ballet: "Never practice alone and never practice with someone who is inexperienced. The only safe way to practice alone is without water. It's very good training." She was referring to breathing and stretching exercises, along with lots of gym work.

Most people would rather lie in a hot bath listening to Verdi but these aqua ballet performers are drawn to water by the same attraction that drives climbers to scale heights. Just invert Mt. Everest and melt the snow.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



MATCH the different personalities of your friends with these unique dolls. There will be enough to go around for the whole Class of 2001 with the Sanrio 100 Doll Collection. For the adventurous and daring, for the class nerd or the class "crush *ng bayan*," for the batch loveteam or the batch "*bunso*," a doll to match their personality will surely be in this lot. Grab one now for the graduate at your nearest Gift Gate store or Sanrio Surprises store nationwide.



THE DAYS of silicone have come, and we are not talking implants! This is a definite improvement for the outer part of your body. Wrap it around the wrist and yes, you will look and feel younger with Swatch Duo Fluo, a definite must after the obstacle called school. Nothing can surprise the new generation, but new ideas and provocative statements fascinate them, cross-fertilizing styles between the world of fashion, sports, arts and music with Swatch Ngrtik.

SWATCH can be oval, square, rectangular or pyramidal ... Swatch Masking can be, as you want it to be! Just as you would want to be unique in this new challenge ahead after graduation. The fun part is that it goes back to its own roots when you want it to. Experience the feeling of freedom when you decide how colorful, how outrageous, how crazy you want your swatch to be today!

'Hello, Billy'

(From page H4)

respectful, *sumisimba pa rin s'ya*...

Do you find that people talk about them like they're real people?

Raul: Yes, we are asked questions like, "S*i* Billy, *gaano na katagal doon* (New York)?"

Mike: *Sa* survey *minsan may sumagot, 'si* Billy *nakita ko noong isang araw sa* mall, *nagtataka ako, nandito na pala siya.* (Laughter)

Aurora: The funny thing *nga* is because I don't have a name [in the commercial], they call me *disgrasyada.* (Laughter) *Sumisigaw ang mga tao, "Ay, si disgrasyada!"* (Laughter) At my age! (Laughter) One thing we need to do is I should have a name perhaps. Sometimes they call me "Gracia," sometimes "Hello, Billy," *"disgrasyada,"* so *wala talaga.* So *paglabas ni* Gracia, *wala na kong* identity. (Laughter)

Raul: *Parang ang simple-simple ng istorya, di ba, pero ang dami-daming mensahe na kailangang ipasok.* With commercials, *ang dami mong ia-*address, unlike movies *na* personal, you're just telling a story; with commercials, you're not just telling a story, you have to keep track of what the client has in mind, what the agency has in mind, plus *'yung mga* subtleties *na "Oops, teka baka may masabi sila kay* Billy or Gracia," *na sa* movies, *wala ka namang pakialam doon, eh.*

How much does a campaign like this cost?

Ito: The budget is your normal production cost.

That's so vague.

Ito: Depends on the situation, location, P3-5 million per production...

Raul: Without airfares, *hindi naman gano'n kamahal.* (Laughter)

Gigi: *Mare-*reveal *ang* director's fee, *eh.* (Laughter) and *si* Billy *baka habulin ng* BIR. (Laughter) *Mga* a few millions...

Raul: In a normal shoot, I have, at the very least, 50 people around me, *kasi ang dami,* like setups *ni* Mommy, *ang dami, magme-*makeup *kay* Mommy *dalawa na, magbibihis, tatlo...*

Gigi: *Ilaw,* utilities...

Did you have acting workshops for this?

Raul: I don't believe in workshops. I believe in workshops if you're working on a movie, you're working with professional actors and actresses, *di ba? Sabihin mo ganito, ganyan, makaka-*take over *sila, pero* in commercials, mostly you're working with, *"O, bagay 'yung* face *n'ya sa... 'yung* acting range, *di pa gano'n, ginagawa ko dito kwento,* "Mommy, *ganito eh...* or *iba 'yung* motivation.

Carlo: *Ang gusto kasi ni direk 'yung* authentic reaction, *ayaw n'ya ng* acting, *gusto n'ya 'yung* real.

Raul: We're working with the camera, you see it from the lens of the camera, so *ibang-iba yan eh. 'Yung* camera, *gumalaw ka lang nang konti, may ibig sabihin na.* So I do the cinematography also. *Hindi ko na sila pinapagod ng* workshop, *basta "O,* Mommy, *'wag ka lang magpapaahit o magpapakulay ng buhok* before shoot," *si* Billy *din, 'Wag kang magpupuyat, 'yung* eyebags," *lalo na 'pag nasa* New York, *magpa-*party *'yan.* (Laughter)

Do you find it more challenging working with children *lalo na 'yung sa* Tide commercial?

Raul: When I was starting I often worked with children. Okay *naman, biruan, eh.* Like children, *di mo pwedeng* workshop *'yan,* either *magta-*tantrums *'yan* or *'pag* take *na, wala na.* If you don't like children you'll never be able to do it, kasi it's not technical, you just motivate them, give them food, play with them...

For a while there was a controversy about the *"disgrasyada"* thing. There was a column I read *na* anti-feminist *daw*. How do you feel about that?

Gigi: We are very sensitive also about that. But even during the story board stage, we were prepared *na baka may mga* comment *na gano'n,* that's why we were very careful. *Pero sa* commercial, we are actually laughing at the mom's reaction because she was the one who misjudged another person. So we are not trying to despise or judge the *disgrasyadas,* we are in fact against those people who misjudge other people. So that's how we try to explain that. Actually, very isolated, *eh,* one or two articles *lang naman,* nobody picked it up...

How did people react to that in your surveys?

Gigi: They remembered *disgrasyada,* they laughed at Mommy for reacting that way.

Carlo, are you related to Tita Muñoz?

Carlo: Yeah, she's my aunt.

How many in the family are in show biz?

Carlo: *Kami lang dalawa ni* Leandro.

Your parents are not in show biz?

Carlo: My dad *nag-*stage *din s'ya* with my aunt, *pero di n'ya tinuloy-tuloy.*

So Leandro is older?

Carlo: Yeah, *may sumunod pa sa kin, 'yung bunso lalaki, panganay babae.*

If you were to cast Gracia, who among the local actresses would you choose?

Carlo: *Mahirap 'yun eh... ang dami, eh.* (Laughs) Vanessa del Bianco, 'coz she's from the US...

Mike: Vanessa also.

How about Kristine Hermosa?

Mike: For me, *hindi nagpi-*fit *si* Kristine *sa* description *ni* Gracia, *eh.*

Raul: Michelle Aldana. *'Yung tipong ganun, morena,* she can survive in America...

How about Miriam Quimbiao?

Mike: *Mas* sexy *na* Miriam Quimbao.

Raul: *Mas* voluptuous.

***Magpapa-iniksyon pa.* (Laughter)**

Gigi: Patricia Borromeo...

***Masyadong* wholesome...**

Carlo: Patricia Javier *na lang.* (Laughter)

Opposite *naman 'yon.* (Laughter)

Joyce Jimenez?

***Ay, naku!* (Laughter)**

***Maraming* new faces *d'yan, maraming magan-dang* Pilipina...**

Gigi: So *dapat maganda s'ya?* That's your perception...

***Para bagay, baka naman ipagpalit kaagad ni* Billy. (Laughs) *Pwede ring* exotic.**

Raul: Wilma Doesnt. (Laughter)

***Masyado namang* exotic. (Laughter)**

Angela Velez...

Gigi: In person, she's good and she speaks well.

(To Ito) I'm sure you already have an idea who will play Gracia...

Ito: She's always there, she's there all along *naman, eh.* She hasn't been featured yet, she's unknown.

So you got a fresh face, somebody who hasn't been exposed before?

Ito: Yeah.

In your Halloween print ad, *binanggit lang na pinagtirik ng kandila ang lola, lolo, tito,* so *hindi patay ang tatay ni* Billy? Single mom *ka*? (Laughter)

Aurora: Secret, *abangan*! (Laughter)

Gigi: [PDI Pinoy Kasi columnist] Michael Tan was actually the first one who analyzed the campaign, it was very insightful.

Do you get reactions from mothers?

Aurora: Yeah, *nakaka-*relate *sila.* In fact, my sister has a best friend *na nagbalikbayan.* She has a son whose name is also Billy and who is also in New York, *kaya sabi n'ya, "Akong-ako, kaya* every time *naririnig ko tumatakbo ako* because *parang ako talaga 'yon.* I should have been the one asked to do it." (Laughter)

Raul: *'Yung* character *naman ni* Mommy is Everywoman, *di naman* special, *di naman* superwoman. *Ang* trick *nga* is, *paano nga ba makaka-*relate *'yung mga tao, kahit 'yung bahay n'ya di naman ayos na ayos,* ordinary *lang*...

How effective has the campaign been in terms of revenue for IDD?

Ito: Without citing the exact figures, it's safe to say that we have generated more than 50-percent increase in our minutes and again the differences in the percentages as compared with our other competitors is the greater volume of the minutes we got still. We average right now close to, if I'm not mistaken, close to 450,000 minutes a day, so that's almost a little bit more than 50 percent before the price reductions that we did.

Mommy, how would you like the series to end?

Aurora: *Siguro*, a wedding of Billy and Gracia.

Raul: Wedding *ni* Mommy. (Laughter)

Gigi: With the dad of Gracia. (Laughter)

Aurora: *Siguro, para naman* enjoy. (Laughter)

Before there was no need to increase the minute, there was no need to market it, whoever calls calls, that was the predominant mindset. You make a call if you have to make a call. Now we're urging people to make a call because it's more affordable and why wait for the next occasion to call? *Gano'n tayong* Pinoy, *Pasko, tapos susunod na hihintayin natin* Easter Sunday *na tayo tatawag, pero* why keep yourselves apart for three months?

Especially if you're a nosy mother. (Laughter)

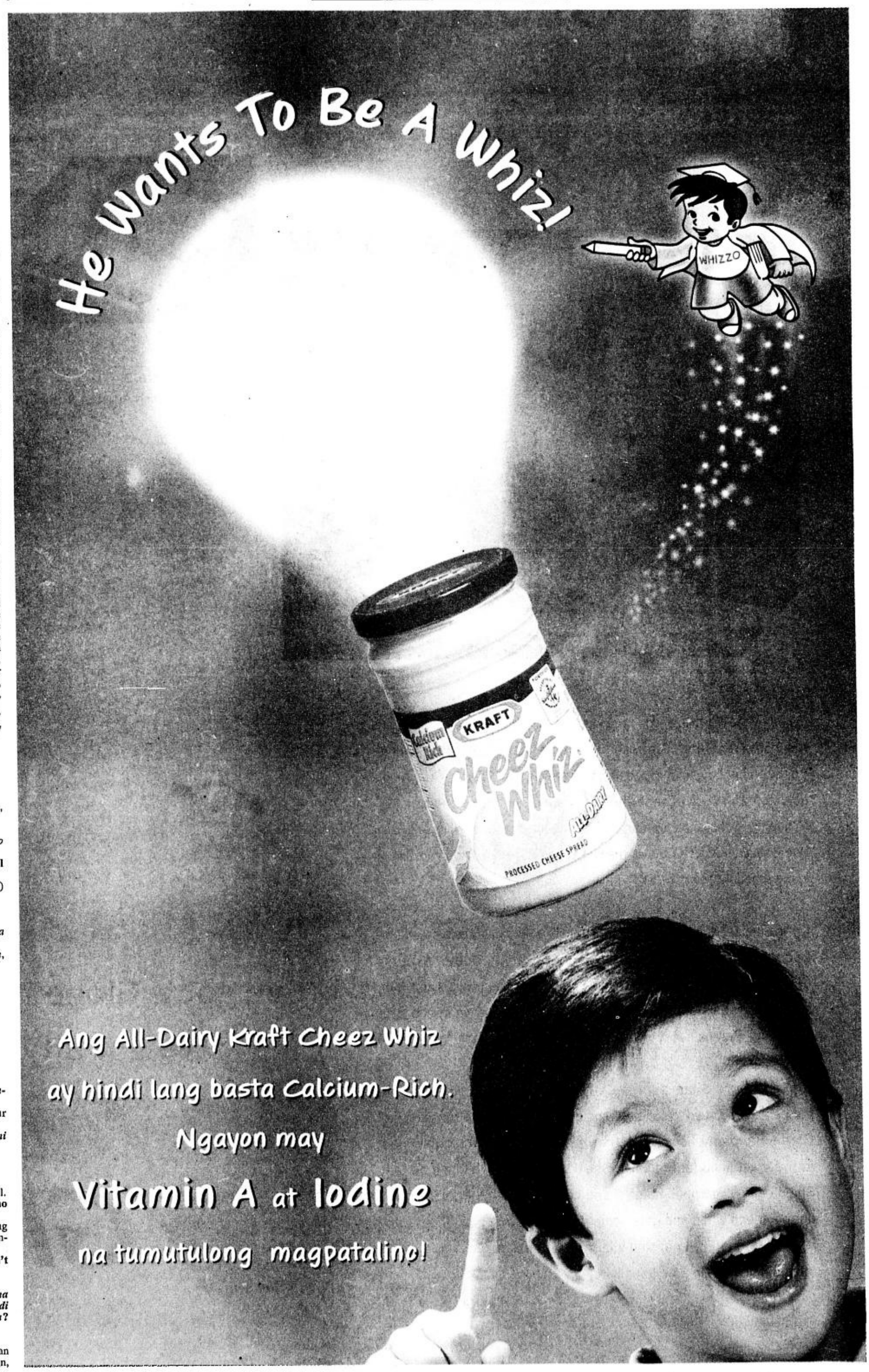
Ito: *Di naman* nosy *si* Mommy, caring mother, *di s'ya* nosy. (Laughs)

How would you like to see the series end?

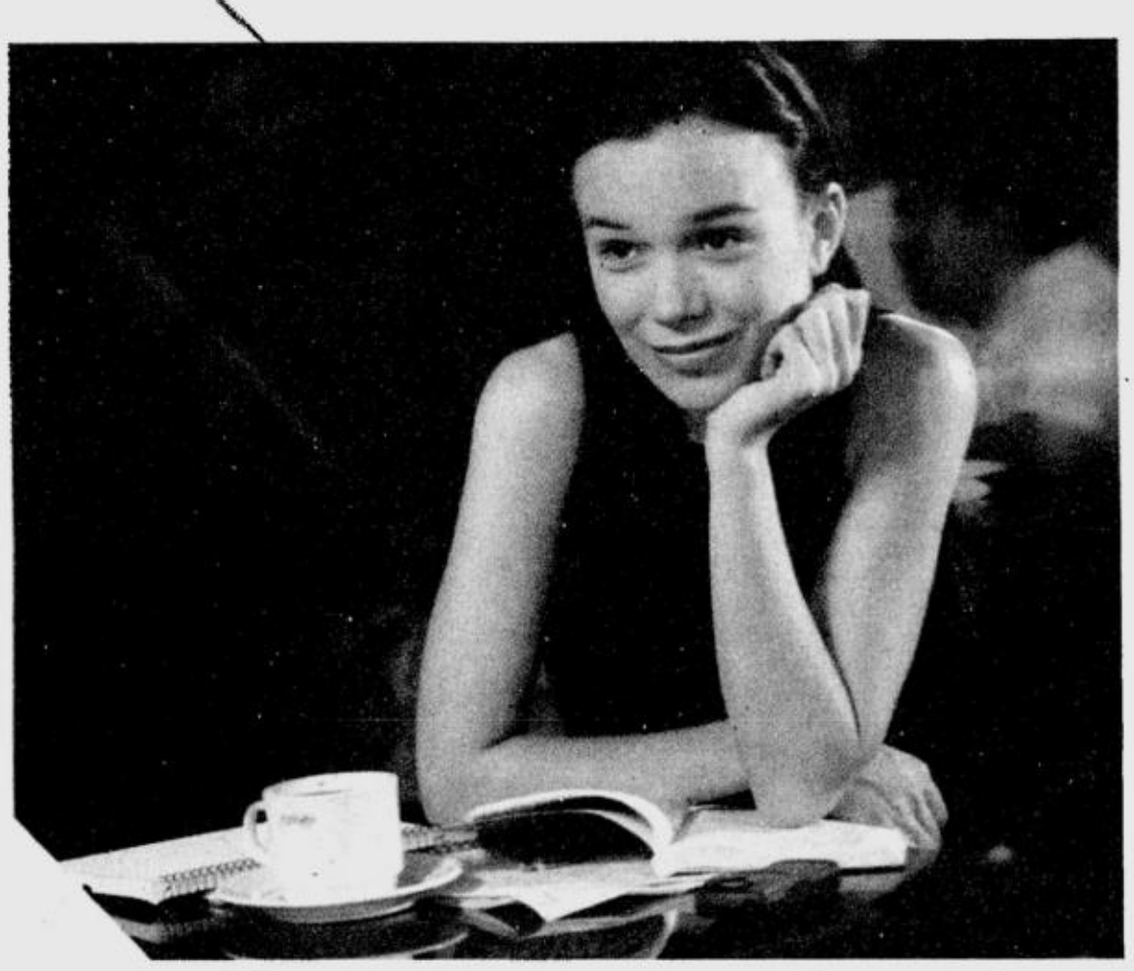
Ito: *Naku! Sine yata katapusan nito, eh.* (Laughter)

Raul: *Telesine.* (Laughter)

Ito: I don't know, to be really honest, I don't think we have an answer to that. Well, we would like to be able to continue as much as we can, as much as the public would want to see it, it all depends on the kind of response we get. So far it's good. As long as it can offer the public not just the entertainment value but also the educational value in terms of improving the understanding of the product, then I guess we can continue.



Quiet Places and Intimate Conversations With Her Globe Handyphone.



Nicole Schulze,
Communication Arts
Student
Commercial Model
GENTXTer
Heavy Caller
IDD User

Twenty-year-old Nicole was rarely seen in parties. "I prefer quiet places for conversations. Cinnzeo is a fave hangout!" she claims. So, when her boyfriend exposed her to the GENTXT level of fun, Nicole adjusted with such ease. With more than 80 partner establishments to hop from, Nicole never runs out of hangouts that suit her style. "I also love watching GENTXT movie premiers even if I have a hard time fitting it in my schedule," she shares.

On weekends, when out-of-town with family or friends, Nicole calls home frequently to check on her terriers, Olga and Joey. With her Globe Handyphone, "I am assured my pets had a good night sleep in my bed and their daily dose of vitamins!" This she shares even as she lazes under the Boracay sun with a crisp copy of the latest paperback.

"I use it more often than my landline. You never know where the people you need to call are!" she quips. Thus, Nicole considers her Globe Handyphone as her line to everything—from the most to the least important of calls. She'd call her mom if she'd be late. She'd call her carpool mates if she can't ride with them. She'd call her boyfriend when she gets home. "And when I get this feeling that my best friends, who are now in the US, miss home, I would give them a call as well," she beams.

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INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN
- Vocational graduate, with actual experience on installation of diesel and gas gen. sets.
- Experience in industrial electrical installation (gas refinery)
- Experienced in high and low voltage cable pulling
- Experienced in installation of floor standing switch gear and power transformer.
- With knowledge to interpret electrical schematic diagram and trouble shooting.
- Trade test with national manpower or meralco foundation institute

H.E. & LT MECHANIC
- With B.S.M.E. degree or vocational graduate.
- Expert in overhauling and diagnostic trouble shooting & hydraulic control system.
- Knowledgeable with the use of engine special tools.
- Expert in engine parts supply survey
- Experienced in caterpillar generator set and detroit diesel engine
- Experienced with computerized diesel engine
- Know how with use of laptop computer

PARTS CONTROLLER
- Especializes in caterpillar, mercedez, iveco parts
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- Must have an initiative and dedicated to his field

CHIEF INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN
- B.S.E.E. / B.S.I.E. graduate
- With vast experienced of the ff:
  - Medium and low voltage termination
  - Expert in paralling gen. sets (gas & diesel)
  - Operational troubleshooting in electrical automation system
  - Supervision of power plant project
  - Exposure in electrical projects estimate
- Knowledgeable in basic computer and IEE/NEC

FOREMAN INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN
- B.S.E.E. or vocational graduate
- With actual experience in high and voltage switch gear and termination
- Have exposure in gen. set installation and troubleshooting
- With expertice in the ff:
  - High and low cabling installation air and underground
- High and low voltage switchgear and automatic transfer switch
- Knowledge to interpret any schematic diagram

WORKSHOP MECHANIC
- Vocational graduate
- Expert in gen. repairs of gas/diesel engines driven vehicles, light and heavy equipments, omega, crane, grader, forklift and other.
- Vast knowledge in all workshop activities, including preventive and corrective maintenance

DIESEL MECHANIC (CENTRAL)
- B.S.M.E./Vocational graduate
- Expert in overhauling and diagnostic trouble
- Shooting, hydraulic control system
- Knowledgeable with use of special tools
- Expert in engine parts survey
- Preferably experienced in caterpillar generator
- Set and detroit diesel engine
- Well experienced in computerized diesel engine
- With knowledge to use laptop

INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN
- Vocational graduate
- Actual experience in installation of diesel/gas generator sets, specialize in waukesha gas engines
- Actual experience in industrial electrical installation (gas refinery)
- Expert in high & low voltage cable pulling
- Installation of floors standing switch gear and power transformer
- Knowledgeable to interpret electrical schematic diagram and troubleshooting
- Trade test w/ national manpower or meralco foundation inst.

HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICIAN
- Vocational graduate
- Knowledgeable to repair all types of household machines and equipments

BLDG. ELECTRICIAN
- Vocational graduate
- Expert in piping layout emt. in mounting power distribution panel
- Vast knowledge to interpret civil work plan and electrical blue print
- With knowledge in (NEC) national electrical code
- To take trade test with national manpower or meralco foundation inst.

FINISHING CARPENTER
- Experienced in various kinds of building construction

PIPEFITTER/PLUMBER
- Experienced in industrial and domestic
- With actual experience in swimming pool piping etc.

TELECOM ENGINEER
- Experienced with motorola telecom (2) way radio system
- Expert in application, installation, troubleshooting, etc.
- Knowledgeable with telecom trunking system such as MPI 1327 & all types of radios

TELECOM TECHNICIAN
- Expert in microwave/satellite
- Experienced in application, installation, trouble shooting in all types of radios
- Expert in motorola telecom (2) way radio system
- Trunking system, trouble shooting repairs of all types of radios

ALL ABOVE CATEGORIES MUST HAVE AT LEAST A MINIMUM OF 5 TO 10 YEARS OF WORKING EXPERIENCE.

Interested applicants are invited to apply personally with the following documents: (Photocopy 2 sets)
- Resumé or bio-data with Job description
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Reach Networks Philippines, Inc., the joint venture of Pacific Century Cyberworks and Telstra Corporation, and now the leading provider of data/Internet connectivity services in Asia, is looking for

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

WHO: will be responsible for achieving challenging sales and management targets and strategies,

will build and maintain long-term working relationships with clients, gather market intelligence, and identify new product and service opportunities for the customers,

will also participate in the planning and development of service requirements that will increase customer satisfaction level, and corporate strategies that will maximize revenue for the Company.

Requirements:
- Must have a good understanding of the Internet, telecommunications, IT and the developments, and customer-industry characteristics of each.
- Ambitious, self-motivated, and can work with minimum supervision.
- Minimum of 2 years experience in corporate sales and account management.
- Enthusiastic, creative, and resourceful.
- Has an outgoing personality and pleasant disposition.
- Good command of the English language, written and oral.

Interested applicants may send their resumés to the following:

Fax: **753-5010**
Email: **tere.esber@cwasia.net**
Address: **34th Floor RCBC Plaza Tower II**
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- Bachelor degree holder
- Fluent in spoken and written English together with Tagalog
- Strong interest in fashion related products and industries

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Please mail or fax your application, in full confidence to:

The Managing Director
Swarovski Singapore Trading Pte Ltd
2 Alexandra Road, #03-01 Delta House
Singapore 159919
Fax: (65) 2748177
E-mail Address: celine.cheah@swarovski.com

HARIBON FOUNDATION

Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources, Inc., a non-governmental Organization engaged in science and research, community-based resource management and environmental defense, is in need of a dynamic professional who can fill in the following position:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- Has experience and capability in fund raising
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Has extensive managerial and administrative experience
- Has extensive experience in project management
- Experience in the field of environment and/or NGO field is an advantage
- Has above-average people skills
- Has knowledge and experience in financial management
- Willing to travel extensively
- Salary is competitive and negotiable

All interested applicants must submit resumés and letter of application on or before **March 26, 2001** to:

Administrative and Finance Officer
Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources Inc.
No. 9 Malingap corner Malumanay Streets
Teachers' Village, Diliman, Quezon City
For inquiries call: 925-3332/435-3208/433-3476
Email: adm-off@haribon.org.ph

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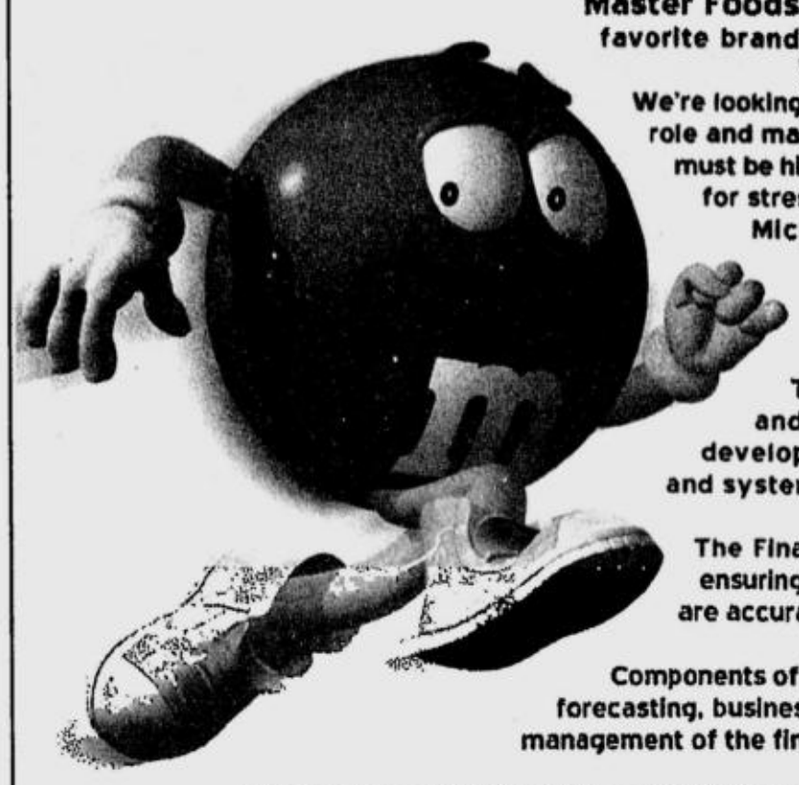

Master Foods Philippines, the company that houses the world's favorite brands, is searching for a Financial Planning Manager.

We're looking for a young, dynamic individual who will play a senior role and manage the planning process for the Philippines. He/she must be highly disciplined, highly analytical, have a high tolerance for stress and can work under tight deadlines. Expertise in all Microsoft Office software packages is essential.

We also value a passion for quality and success and an ability to work independently.

The individual must be responsible for the coordination and timing of activities, as well as the setting and development of planning principles, processes, analyses and systems.

The Financial Planning Manager will also be responsible for ensuring that all Business Review, plan information and analysis are accurate and timely, for reporting to the Management Team.

Components of his/her job responsibility are: financial control, financial forecasting, business reviews, profitability analysis, currency forecasting, management of the financial planning and profitability system, among others.

Master Foods Philippines, a MARS, Inc. Company, is responsible for such snack food brands as M & M's®, SNICKERS®, MARS® , MILKYWAY® and STARBURST®. We are also behind renowned pet food brands PEDIGREE® and WHISKAS® and CHAPPI®.

Mars m&m's SNICKERS whiskas

Interested in planning a future with us? Send us your resume at The Personnel & Organization Manager Master Foods Philippines, Inc. Ayala Life-FGU Center 19/F #6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City or e-mail mfpi.jobs@ap.effem.com
The application period ends on March 21, 2001
We will respond only to qualified applicants
Previous applicants need not apply

Mars

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- With minimum experience of three (3) years in similar position
- People-oriented, can work independently
- Not more than 35 years old
- Computer literate

SEA-IMPORT SUPERVISOR

- College graduate, preferably Customs Administration
- With minimum experience of three (3) years in similar position
- Not more than 35 years old
- Computer literate

AIR-IMPORT STAFF

- College graduate, preferably Customs Administration
- With at least one year experience in billing and import documentation
- Computer literate

Interested applicants may apply personally or send resumé with 2x2 picture and credentials (NBI clearance, SSS ID, previous work certification/clearance) at the following address:

A.T.E. FREIGHT PHILS., INC.
Corporate Affairs Department
Roligon Compound, 505 Quirino Avenue, Tambo Parañaque City
Tel. Nos. 832-1005; 833-9703; 510-9215/20

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* With good communication skills
* Knowledge in IT applications or any IT specialized field

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* Willing to be trained in various accounting software
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- o Highly proficient in computer applications
- o Must have good people skills

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- o Graduate of Food Technology, Chemistry, or any Food Science related course
- o With at least 1 year experience in a similar capacity
- o Computer literate
- o Male or Female

QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER (QA 003)
- o Graduate of Food Technology, Chemistry, Microbiology or any Food Science related course
- o With or without experience
- o Computer literate
- o Preferably male

MARKETING ASSISTANT (MA 004)
- o Graduate of Marketing, Mass Communication or related course
- o With at least two (2) years experience in Ads & Promo, Marketing or Creative Designs
- o Computer literate

FIELD OFFICER (FO 005)
- o College graduate preferably Humanities course
- o With at least one (1) year relevant experience
- o Good communication skills
- o With high level of interaction with people from all walks of life

COST ACCOUNTING STAFF(CA 006)
ACCOUNTING STAFF (AS 008)
- o Graduate of BS Accountancy
- o With at least one (1) to two (2) years relevant experience
- o Computer literate

CREDIT & COLLECTION STAFF (CC 007)
- o Graduate of Management, Business Administration or Accounting
- o With at least one (1) year relevant experience
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NUTRI-LICIOUS FOODS CORP.
7 MACARIO FLORES ST.,
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A Large and Established American Multinational Consumer Packaged Food Company is in need of an

INTERNAL CONTROL MANAGER

- SouthEast Asia

Job Requirements

The candidate will lead the region in ensuring that a proper control environment with regard to the protection of the company assets, integrity of financial data/reports and compliance with company policies and statutory requirements are maintained. He/She will assess control risks for all the affiliate companies operating in the region and will identify areas with significant risk exposure giving consideration to the region overall and to each business unit. He/she will ensure consistency in controls between the mother company and SEA, and leverages control learnings among the region's operating units.

Qualifications:
- ➢ Age between 30 to 35
- ➢ University degree in Finance (specialized in Controllership)
- ➢ At least 4 years experience in internal control in one of the Top 5 worldwide food companies
- ➢ At least 7 years extensive experience in fraud detection and auditing techniques
- ➢ At least 7 years extensive knowledge in strong internal control in a European or American environment
- ➢ Strong experience in coordination of regional projects
- ➢ Excellent communication skills

BOX MK-60
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--dynamic, hardworking and willing to grow with the organization; and
--of good moral character

Teaching experience is not necessary but is an advantage. Fresh graduates are welcome. Qualified applicants are requested to mail their resume', photo, transcript of records, letter of application addressed to the Principal and a certificate of good moral character to:

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Applicants are expected to have outstanding interpersonal skills and excellent command of oral and written English. They must also have the ability to motivate and train assistants. Certified Public Accountants are preferred.

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What to do.

Applicants should prepare a resumé with the following information: details of work experience, current and expected earnings, address and contact phone numbers. The resumé and a photograph should be mailed to Fred Damian at MCPO Box 1375, 1253 Makati City; faxed to him at 886-5506 or 886-5507; e-mailed to him at Fred.V.Damian@ph.eyi.com; or handcarried to him at the 19th Floor, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Avenue, 1200 Makati City. We will respond only to shortlisted candidates.

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NOTE: FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

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eREP™ (tEchnIcAL)
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what ELSE are we looking for?

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Trainer
You will design and conduct client specific, continuing education & behavioral training for eReps & be available to work all shifts, including graveyard and the occasional weekend. 5 + years training experience on software, customer service, sales, and/or management skills. Experience in contact center environment & course development preferred. Good working knowledge of adult educational concepts & the Internet. Must have excellent training, presentation & interpersonal skills. You must be proficient in MS Word & PowerPoint

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12-TH-14TH FL. PHILAMLIFE TOWER, PASEO DE ROXAS, MAKATI

Sales and Market Development Manager
Urban Pest Management

Dow AgroSciences B.V. - Phil., a leading American Multinational Company engaged in the manufacture, marketing and distribution of crop protection, specialty and urban pest management products, seeks an experienced Sales and Market Development Manager to fill a new position within the Philippines based organization.

Tasks:
- develop market for urban pest
- management of key customers of the fast growing business unit
- formulates and implements sales programs to achieve growth objectives

Needs :
- 28 - 35 years old
- 3 - 5 years experience in Sales Management
- must have a degree in any Science or Engineering Course
- must possess effective communication skills, good human relations and versatility in dealing with different people, as well as positive attitude
- must be assertive in the market, proactive, responsible, independent, output-oriented, and emotionally mature.
- must also be a risk taker and a team player
- must be well versed on the use of computers

Package :
Attractive compensation and comprehensive benefit package to include vehicle, incentive program, employee development, and career growth opportunities.

This is an urgent requirement.

Reply at first instance to:
Human Resources Dept.
P.O. Box 1567
Makati Central Post Office
1255 Makati City

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www.jobmarketonline.com

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syngenta **Philippines, Inc.**, is one of the leading multi-national companies in the local agrochemicals industry. Based in Basle, Switzerland, Syngenta is a merger of Novartis Crop Protection AG and Zeneca Agrochemicals. With pro-forma sales of approximately US$ 7 billion in 1999, we now gain strength to develop innovative crop protection and seed solutions for sustainable agriculture around the world.

As we become bigger and more competitive, the quality of our people is the key to our success. In making this a reality, we are currently seeking for a dynamic, competent, highly independent individual to join our team as:

Customer Service Analyst (CSA)

To be able to deliver good customer service in the areas of sales order processing and logistics, our associate should possess the following qualifications:

- ✓ A bonafide college graduate with a degree in Accountancy or any related business course from a reputable institution.
- ✓ With working experience of at least two years in a manufacturing firm. Exposure in sales order processing (monitoring of sales orders, stock availability and deliveries), inventory count and reconciliation, data entry of inventory transactions, and customer service is an advantage.
- ✓ He/she should possess excellent communication skills and proficiency in computer operations (knowledge in BPCS is a preference).
- ✓ Equipped with good inter-personal skills needed in coordinating with toll formulators as well as with associates from the marketing and sales, and research and development departments.

Competitive compensation and benefits package and career development opportunities await successful candidate. The position is for Canlubang, Laguna assignment. Interested parties may send their credentials with application letter indicating the position not later than **20 March 2001** to:

Syngenta Philippines, Inc.
(Position Code)
10/F Salcedo Towers
169 H.V. dela Costa Street
Salcedo Village, Makati City
E-mail: **team.hr@syngenta.com**

A leading sports club in Metro Manila has an immediate opening for:

GENERAL MANAGER

- ❑ college graduate, preferably with management experience in similar position
- ❑ able to plan, direct and coordinate budgets and marketing strategies
- ❑ knowledgeable in F & B operation and sports facilities

FOOD & BEVERAGE MANAGER

- ❑ a graduate of B.S. Nutrition or Hotel & Restaurant Management,
- ❑ at least 10 years experience in similar position in hotel or sports' club,
- ❑ knowledgeable in International Cuisine, Materials Control, Budgets, Marketing concepts

Interested applicants may send their application letters and resumés to:

The President
Valle Verde Country Club
Capt. Henry Javier Street
Pasig City, 1600
FAX No. 632-77-51

A Foreign-based stockbroking company is looking for qualified individuals to become

EQUITIES TRADER and RESEARCH ANALYST

Please send your CV and cover letter by fax, mail or email by **17 March 2001** to:

2403 A & B, West Tower
Philippine Stock Exchange Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Fax: (63-2) 637-3724
Email address: misi@mindgate.net

Applicants with experience in Banking, Insurance, Foreign currencies and other related services are preferred.

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

PR Counsellors Philippines, Inc.
HELPING BUILD CREDIBLE REPUTATIONS

One of the country's most reputable pr agencies, needs you as

PR Assistants / Officers

- If you know what you really want, and what you want is
  - to carve a career path in public relations
  - to learn and practice the latest trends in corporate and marketing pr
  - to train directly under one of the more experienced practitioners in the pr field
  - to serve clients who belong to the country's top 5,000 companies
- If you like to think creatively, write, talk, and meet interesting people such as corporate leaders and members of the press while servicing our accounts on a day-to-day basis or marketing our services to prospective clients;
- If you are a Communication Arts, Mass Communication, English or Marketing graduate, with high proficiency in MS Word, MS Excel and MS Powerpoint, and have at least one-year work experience;
- If you like to work at competitive salary rates, in a nearby home office (a growing trend here, following a similar one in the US), where the costs and stress of commuting are minimized and the cost of work is further reduced with free lunch;
- If you live in the vicinity of San Juan, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Cubao, Cainta, Taytay, Antipolo and Marikina;

Then come work with us!

Send your comprehensive resumé to:

Beth J. Natividad
Managing Director
PR COUNSELLORS PHILIPPINES, INC.
The PRCP House, 22 Bautista Avenue, Bautista Ville
Rosario, Pasig City (Near Ever Gotesco - Ortigas)
E-mail: prcpinc@pacific.net.ph

The world's largest quick service restaurant continues to expand...and needs top caliber people for the following positions.

Code: REAL ESTATE DIRECTOR
We are seeking an individual with at least 5 years experience as Real Estate Manager. Candidate must be aggressive, must have excellent managerial and communication skills, and preferably with experience in a multinational company.

Code: REAL ESTATE OFFICERS
Candidate must be an experienced professional who will be responsible for site selection and lease and purchase of property.

Requirements include 3 years experience in commercial real estate acquisition, market research, zoning, property leasing, purchasing and negotiations. Experience in a multinational company is a plus factor. Travel required.

Code: PROJECT MANAGERS
The successful candidate will oversee the work of contractors, manage multiple construction projects and coordinate architectural and civil engineering designs.

Candidate must have experience in securing relevant permits from government, possess a degree in Architectural or Civil Engineering and have 5 years construction experience in commercial projects. Experience in a multinational company is preferred.

Code: RESTAURANT MANAGER TRAINEES
Chosen candidate will be placed on a fast track program and will later run a multi-million business.

If you can effectively put marketing, management, accounting, public relations and people skills to work and you have at least 2 years experience managing the operations of a quick service or fine dining restaurant or hotel, you should seriously consider a career in McDonald's.

Other requirements include being customer-focused, excellent communication skills, and proficiency in the use of computer.

We offer a good starting salary, excellent benefits, and significant potential for advancement.

Send your resume and 2x2 colored picture to:

McDonald's
EMPLOYER OF OPPORTUNITY

Code:
The Human Resources Department
McGEORGE FOOD INDUSTRIES, INC.
17/F Citibank Ctr. P. de Roxas, Makati City

SYKES℠
Real People. Real Solutions.

Sykes Asia, Inc. is a global leader in providing customer support services to technology-enabled companies. These services are delivered through multiple communication channels encompassing phone, e-mail and web.

Headquartered in Tampa, Florida, Sykes has over 14,000 employees and operates 39 customer support centers, four e-commerce fulfillment centers, and 17 branch offices throughout North America, Europe, Latin America, and Asia.

MANDARIN/CANTONESE LANGUAGE CONSULTANTS

Providing world-class customer service to our partners from the Asia Pacific Region, the Consultant shall provide language (Mandarin/Cantonese) support to its clients.

Qualified applicants must have excellent written and spoken Mandarin/Cantonese language skills, working knowledge with the different Operating Systems (Windows 98/2000, NT, etc.), familiarity with Mac and the different Microsoft Applications and Internet. Also, applicants should have excellent customer service orientation. This consultancy position is for a fixed-term contract with a consultancy rate of Php 30,000.00.

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé via e-mail to **hrd@man.ph.sykes.com** or mail it to **4F SMPC Building, St. Francis Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City**.

UBX

***U-BIX CORPORATION**, a leading provider of office equipment, furniture and related office services, is now accepting applications for ---*

SALES REPRESENTATIVES - MANILA & BACOLOD
(PDI-SR)

- College graduates, not over 28 years old
- At least one year field sales experience
- Good communication skills; able to provide prompt and accurate reports
- Hardworking, assertive individuals who can stand challenges

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS
(PDI-CSO)

- Graduates from country's top universities; with degree in marketing or any business course
- Willing to do field work to personally interact with corporate clients
- Service-oriented and personable individuals; having business writing skills is an advantage
- Must be responsible, persevering and mature; not over 25 years old

Qualified applicants are requested to mail their resume with photo and transcript of records to

(POSITION CODE)
Recruitment and Training Group
1331 Angono St., J.P. Rizal Makati City
or e-mail us at ubxhrd@i-next.net

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is in urgent need of a

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Responsibilities:
- The incumbent will be responsible for Recruitment; Training & Education; Associate Performance; Labor Relations; Career Development & Succession Planning; Organizational Development; Health & Safety; and Total Compensation.
- Work scope includes coordinating and interacting with internal staff with regards to internal Admin/HR issues; generating monthly reports for the Division and follow up any related issues.

Requirements:
- Candidate must possess a degree preferably in Human Resources.
- Minimum of 5 years of working experience in related field.
- Minimum of 2 years work experience in a Company with more than 300 employees.
- With excellent leadership skills.
- Must be a good team player.
- Must possess excellent interpersonal skills.
- With above average communication skills.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office.

If you have the drive and are highly capable, be part of our expanding team and dare to make a difference.

Interested candidates are invited to submit their resumé, official Transcript of Records, and a recent ID photo to:

P.O. Box MK-59
Philippine Daily Inquirer
c/o Classified Ads Division
Unit III-A, G/F Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, Makati City

WRIGLEY PHILIPPINES INC.

Makers of the leading chewing gum products, a world-class multi-national consumer manufacturing company is in need of a

NETWORK ENGINEER

with the following qualifications

- male or female
- BS Computer Engineering or BS Electronic & Communication Engineering graduate
- newly graduate or at least one year job experience in networking
- knowledgeable in networking (LAN), Novell, NT, PC is preferred
- network troubleshooting is a plus
- willing to work in excess of 8 hours, weekends and holidays
- willing to sign a one-year contract of project employment

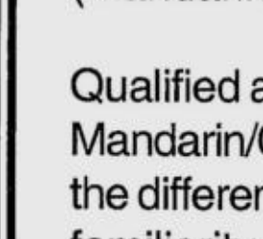
Wrigley Philippines Inc. is located in Antipolo City along Marcos Highway, Sitio Puting Bato in Barangay Inarawan.

If you fit the above qualifications, we invite you to send your resumé immediately with your transcript of records and one passport size picture to:

People, Learning & Development Department
Wrigley Philippines Inc.
P.O. Box No. 1857 MCPO
1258 Makati City

or email your application to **rmorelos@wrigley.com**

Please note: We shall call only qualified applicants for exams and interview.



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WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
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(formerly C. Itoh & Co. Ltd.)
and its Group of Companies

MARKETING OFFICER

Requirements:

- ✓ male or female, maximum 30 years old
- ✓ college degree graduate
- ✓ good interpersonal skills
- ✓ strong entrepreneurial desire and ability to spot business opportunities
- ✓ ability to speak Fookienese
- ✓ preferably with sales background in chemical industry
- ✓ good spoken and written English skills

Salary rates are negotiable. Please send your resumé with photo to:

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
MCC P.O. 2847
Makati 1299

or e-mail: baladad-j@mnl.itochu.co.jp

A Pasay City-based Foundation working with street children is searching for an **Executive Director** with the knowledge, experience, creativity, flexibility, energy, and integrity to manage its multifaceted, child-centered programs.

Responsibilities:
Management of the Foundation's daily operations, finances, staff hiring, deployment and evaluation; Formulation of implementation policies and guidelines; Supervise formulation of annual program plans; Monitoring and evaluation of programs; Fund-raising; Networking; Ex-officio Board member

Requirements:
Academic background in relevant fields (Social Work, Child Psychology, Education)
Solid background and experience in development work
Minimum of 5 years experience in management
Proven track record in fund raising
Proven writing and communication skills
Proficient in written and spoken English and Filipino
Computer literate

Preference will be given to candidates with a post graduate degree in a relevant field, and with experience or training in working with dysfunctional families/individuals from marginalized sectors.

Interested applicants should send their CV and application letter not later than March 30, 2001 addressed to:

The Board of Directors
Kalbigan Ermita Outreach Foundation
2688 Park Avenue, Pasay City
Fax No. (63-2) 551-3226
Email: frontier@skyinet.net

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www.jobmarketonline.com

ISLAND COVE RESORT AND LEISURE PARK

A dynamic and competitive leader in the Philippine Hospitality Industry is looking for the following individuals:

RECRUITMENT OFFICER & ASSISTANT/ HRD ASSOCIATE (Wages & Benefits)

- •Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Studies, Human Resources Management and other related studies;
- •Relevant work experience in the same capacity
- •Not more than 24 years old

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

- •College Graduate preferably major in Journalism/Communication Arts
- •At least one (1) year experience in media, promotions or public relations
- •Verbal and written facility
- •Has good exposure in the market place
- •Dynamic and with good human relations

GRAPHIC ARTISTS

- •Graduate of Fine Arts or its equivalent experience
- •Knowledge in Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, Page Maker and Corel Applications
- •Knowledge in HTML is an advantage

EXECUTIVE CHEF, SOUS CHEF & HEAD BUTCHER

- •College graduate or equivalent experience
- •Five (5) years experience in resort or hotel and restaurant, two (2) years in supervisory level and with selling background
- •Personable, aggressive and can communicate with all levels of the organization

BANQUET SUPERVISOR

- •Graduate of HRM or equivalent experience
- •At least three (3) years experience in deluxe resort or hotel and restaurant
- •Has good communication skill, supervisory skills and service oriented
- •Keen attention to details
- •Has knowledge in food and beverage and proper service technique

CHIEF OF SECURITY

- •Graduate of Military Science or retired Military/Police Officer
- •Has a minimum of five (5) years of experience in over-all security operations in a resort or hotel and restaurant
- •Decisive with commanding personality

WAITERS/ STEWARDS/ RECEPTIONISTS

- •College Level
- •Male/Female, 18 -25 years old, with experience
- •Customer service oriented

Interested Applicants may send their resumes to:

Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park
Binakayan, Kawit Cavite
jm1@inquirer.com.ph (subject: kw-island)

Island Cove
RESORT AND LEISURE PARK

The fast expanding International Company based in HongKong with offices in Manila, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Bangkok, Jakarta, UAE and Australia invites experienced web professionals to present their application for

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER (CIO)

The CIO's work program will focus on ensuring that the information resources and systems as well as the Company's supporting technology infrastructure are effectively applied to achieve its goals.

The successful candidate will be responsible for:

- Information and knowledge management, use of collaborative tools and information systems, workstation hardware and software, local area network management and global communication services.
- Providing information and knowledge sharing among staff and customers worldwide.
- Assessing Company IT capabilities and needs, and forge a united IT system/team to competitively meet the needs of internal and external customers.

Selection Criteria

- With advanced degree in IT; 10 years experience in a senior management position.
- With extensive experience in delivering IT services to a large decentralized organization via a global network.
- Demonstrates strong analytical skills and customer service-orientation.
- Possesses effective communication and interpersonal skills, able to write concise reports and deliver effective oral presentations.
- An outstanding leader and team player
- Technical knowledge required includes NT & Unix, MS Windows, VB6, SQL, Access, decentralized DB Mgmt., LAN, Intranet, Internet and Web Technology.

Company offers a very competitive compensation package. Qualified candidates should send detailed CV with track records, cover letter, recent photo, and expected salary not later than 18 March 2001 to:

HUMAN RESOURCE AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
15th Floor Robinsons-Equitable Tower
ADB cor. Poveda Road, Ortigas Center, Quezon City
E-mail: jay-hrd@hotmail.com
Fax No.: 633-9254

Club Panoly Resorts, Inc.

wishes to recruit suitable candidate for the post of

CORPORATE FINANCE MANAGER

The successful candidate will be responsible to head the Finance and Accounts on Corporate travel. He will also be responsible to assist in computerization of all Financial, Accounting and linked activities to ensure proper flow and timely use of data for various management concerns. The candidate must possess following qualifications and experiences:

1. Commerce graduate with Management Degree/Certificate.
2. Computer literate, having programming knowledge and holding Microsoft Certified Professional Certification in Visual Basic.
3. Knowledge of ERP packages like Oracle Financials.
4. Must possess a functional experience of minimum of 20 years. An overseas work experience is an added advantage.

This is a key position and the selected candidate shall be reporting directly to the President and CEO. Interested candidates may apply to:

The Executive Secretary to President and CEO
Club Panoly Resorts, Inc.
9th Floor, Pacific Place Building
539 Arquiza Street, Ermita, Manila
E-mail: admin@clubpanoly.com.ph

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webservasia.com

We are one of the country's premier companies engaged in Internet-based Customer Relationship Management. We invite experienced and highly motivated individuals to join our organization for the following positions:

Training Manager (Code: EA)

The candidate will be responsible in designing, developing and implementing of all professional development programs of the company. The position requires a minimum of 5 years experience as Technical Trainer acquired from a service industry, 2 years of which must be in a managerial capacity. Must have a firm grasp in needs assessment and interpreting the same to develop client-specific and professional enhancement training modules. Experience in Customer Relation Management (CRM) is a definite advantage.

Account Manager (Code: AM)

The candidate will be responsible in planning, directing and implementing business initiatives of the company. The ideal candidate must have extensive experience in project and client management acquired in a service or IT industry. The position requires a minimum of 3 years progressive experience in account management. The candidate must have an MBA degree from any of the following institutions, AIM/Ateneo/UP/DLSU. Must have strong analytical/mathematical and interpersonal skills. Persons between twenty-five and thirty years of age are preferred

Production Analyst (Code: PA)

The candidate will be responsible in collating raw data from the customer care specialists' reports and interprets the same to measure productivity and establish quality standards. Must have strong analytical skill. The candidate must be a University graduate with the degree in BS Computer Science or Engineering. Must be proficient in the use of Visual Basic, Microsoft Access and Excel. Persons must be between twenty and twenty-seven years of age.

Shift Supervisor (Code: SS)

The candidate will be responsible in managing the schedules of the customer care specialists and is expected to ensure high productivity by monitoring client service level in real time. The ideal candidate must possess excellent leadership and problem solving skills. Must have strong foundation in providing customer support focusing on voice/telephony as the medium. Must be a University graduate with the degree in Communication Arts/Interdisciplinary Studies. Persons must be between twenty and twenty-seven years of age, with excellent interpersonal and communication skills; and are willing to work on shifts. Experience in CRM an advantage.

LAN Tech Engineer (Code: LTE)

The candidate will be responsible for the installation, monitoring, maintenance and troubleshooting of computer peripherals and workstations. The candidate must have a strong foundation in providing technical support (hardware/software); proficient in LAN/WAN, Client Server and Windows NT environment. Must be a Microsoft Certified Professional. A university degree holder in BS Computer Science/Engineering. Persons must be between twenty and twenty-seven years of age, with excellent interpersonal and communication skills; and must be willing to work on shifts.

Office Administrator (Code: Admin)

The position requires extensive knowledge in office administration. The candidate must have a strong grasp in dealing with vendors in relation to supplies canvassing and procurement. Must be knowledgeable in storage and inventory of company assets, and site maintenance (security/janitorial). The position requires a minimum of 2 years experience in building/office administration and asset management. He must posses above average interpersonal and communication skills. Persons between twenty-five and thirty-five years of age are preferred.

Customer Care Specialists (Code: CCS)

The Customer Care Specialists will be at the forefront of our organization. They will be the focal point for all customer requests, and will be responsible for providing front line support and assistance to our clients. Our Customer Care Specialists are expected to analyze, diagnose and solve problems, with consistently high customer satisfaction rating. They should be courteous, customer-focused, and must be team spirited.

The ideal candidates for the position are persons who are internet savvy college graduates; can speak the American language with above average accent and tonal quality; are between twenty and twenty-seven years of age, with excellent interpersonal skills; and are willing to work on shifts. Previous experience in the customer relations management industry is a definite advantage.

Interested parties are requested to submit their comprehensive resume indicating the position code to:

WEBSERVASIA
Attn: Human Resources Department
29/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Libis, Quezon City
Email: jobs@webservasia.com
Fax No: 911-8854
"Real People for your Customers all the time"

Your connection to better people, better jobs.
JOB MARKET ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

Stores Specialists, Inc.

IS IN NEED OF HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES FOR

VISUAL MERCHANDISING DIVISION ASSISTANT (R-VMDA)

- Between 24 to 30 years old.
- Graduate of Fine Arts or any (4) four-year related course from a reputable institution.
- Preferably with (1) one year work experience in the same field of specialization.
- Must have the capacity and energy for overtime work.
- Must have good oral and written communication skills.
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality.
- Must be computer literate (MAC-based).

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (R-HRDM)

- Female, between 26 to 35 years old.
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science/Studies or any related course.
- Minimum of (3) three years experience in a similar capacity, handling all facets of Human Resource Training and Development.
- With strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills.
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, with impeccable integrity and of good moral character.
- Must be computer literate.

STORE-BASED MANAGERIAL POSITIONS (R-SBM)

- At least 24 years old.
- Graduate of a (4) four-year business-related course from a reputable institution.
- Preferably with (2) two years work experience in store operations.
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays.
- Must be patient, approachable and able to deal well with customers.
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality.
- Must be computer literate.

HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALISTS (R-HRS)

- Female, between 24 to 30 years old.
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science/Studies or any related course.
- With at least (1) one year work experience in the same field.
- Must be flexible and able to deal well with all levels of organization.
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays.
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality.
- Must be computer literate.

Please send your application with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo through mail to:

Personnel Department
STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
4th Floor, Midland Buendia Building
#403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)
PLEASE INDICATE POSITION CODE
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph (Subject: SSI)

GeoSpatial Solutions

BEYOND SPATIAL INTELLIGENCE
www.geospatial-solutions.com

Meet interesting people. Learn about the latest in information systems and geospatial technologies. Be part of an innovative development team and a progressive information technology (IT) firm that prides itself in providing quality service and products to its clients. **Apply to GeoSpatial Solutions, TODAY!**

Individuals who are creative, have excellent communication skills and have gained at least 1.5 years of relevant experience in the development of information systems may apply for the following positions:

PROJECT MANAGER
SYSTEMS ANALYST
WEB PROGRAMMER
VB PROGRAMMER

Individuals who are proficient in the geosciences and have adequate educational and professional experience in the development of geographic information systems (GIS) may apply for the following positions:

GIS ANALYST
CAD OPERATOR

Individuals who have noteworthy educational as well as professional background and experience in the field of business may apply for the following positions:

HR ASSISTANT
TRAINER
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
OFFICE RECEPTIONIST

WE WELCOME FRESH GRADUATES!

Personally apply at 3102-C East Tower, PSE Ctr. (Tektite Towers), Ortigas Ctr. ,Pasig City or send your resume to hr.admin@geospatial-solutions.com. Only qualified applicants will be called for an interview.

URGENT NEED ☞ ACCOUNTANT

We are a pioneering company in the field of data and information management services and we are in immediate need of an ACCOUNTANT who possesses the following qualifications:

- Must be a Certified Public Accountant
- With at least 3 years experience in general accounting work
- Computer literate particularly in the use of Lotus 123 for Windows, MS Office and Excel
- Not over 35 years old

Applicants may submit or mail their Bio-Data, Transcript of Records and ID picture to the following address:

The Recruitment Officer
Asian Encoding Company, Inc.
3F Strategic Partners Inc. Building
2100 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati
(near Mantrade, in front of Levis-Dockers)
E-Mail (renz_crucena@questronix.com.ph)
Fax: 8945306 Telephone Nos.: 8945307, 8942547

IMMEDIATELY NEEDED!!!

Management Sciences for Health (MSH) is an international nonprofit corporation, based in the USA with 23 field offices around the world, providing technical assistance, systems development and applied research to help decision makers throughout the world use management skills to strengthen health care and family planning services. MSH is the prime contractor coordinating and providing management and technical advisory services for the Local Government Performance Program (LPP), the implementation arm of the Integrated Family Planning Maternal Health Program (IFPMHP) working with the Philippine Department of Health and with Local Government Units throughout the nation.

MSH is currently searching for individual contractor who can render short term consultancy for the project tentatively for three (3) months (March - May 2001) as:

Quality Assurance (QA) Field Coordinator

The Quality Assurance (QA) Field Coordinator will assist the DOH regional teams to ensure that local government units (LGUs) implement mechanisms and tools to upgrade their health facilities and meet quality standards. QA Field Coordinator works closely with other project Coordinators and works closely with regional, local and LGU staff. The QA Field Coordinator is supervised by the project QA Advisor.

Qualifications:

- has a degree in medicine, preferably with MPH or equivalent degree
- has at least 5 years relevant experience in Family Planning/Maternal and Child Health/Population
- willing to travel 75% of the time
- has successful prior experience with health related projects

Qualified individuals should send (hand-carry, fax, mail, e-mail) a letter of interest, curriculum vitaé and the names of 3 references not later than **March 16, 2001** to:

Management Sciences for Health-Project Management Technical Advisors Team (MSH-PMTAT)
Attention: Finance/Operations Officer
MSH, 10F, Times Plaza, UN Avenue corner Taft Avenue, Ermita, Manila
Tel.# 525-71-45 / 52 / 56
Fax # 525-60-86
E-mail: crobles@msh.org.ph

LG Systems Phils., Inc.

A Korean multinational company engaged in IT business worldwide is currently looking for high caliber professionals in the IT field to perform a significant function in its system development projects with government and private institutions in the Philippines and abroad.

SYSTEMS ANALYST/DESIGNER

Job Description
- System analysis and design
- Training and Management of programmers

Mandatory Skills (which are related to client/ server based environments as below:)

Development tool : Powerbuilder and/or Visual Basic
Database (RDBMS) : Sybase and/or Oracle
Case tool : System Architect or any case tool

Requirements
- must be at least a university graduate with degree in IT and/or other related fields
- minimum of five (5) years working experience in the IT field
- not more than 35 years old
- must be well experienced in development, implementation and operation in a client/server environment project for whole system life cycle
- must have through knowledge and direct exposure in system development methodology such as Method/I, Information Engineering Methodology, or any other system development methodology.
- has good management and leadership skills in handling Computerized system analysis/design.

PROGRAMMER/S

Job Description
- Program coding and documentation
- Test data preparation
- Training of fusers

Mandatory Skills (which are related to client/ server based environments as below:)

Development tool : Visual Basic
Database (RDBMS) : Sybase and/or Oracle

Requirements
- must be at least a university graduate with degree in IT and/or other related fields
- minimum of two (2) years working experience in the IT field
- not more than 30 years old
- must be well experienced in the development, implementation and operation in a client/server environment project.

Preferable Skills

Middleware
POS (Point of Sales) S/W
Imaging S/W
Workflow S/W
Groupware S/W
Testing Plan/Tool

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Beside BPI Building cor. Paseo de Roxas

See us in your proper business attire with two (2) passport-sized pictures, complete resumé / biodata and the clipping of this ad on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday [March 12, 13, & 14] from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. only.

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We are also looking for qualified candidates to fill in the following positions:
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- **IN-HOUSE BROKER**
- **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**
- **MKTG. SEC./ RECEPTIONIST**

Please come and see us with your comprehensive resume at:
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24/F 139 Corporate Center Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Look for Archie Reyes (Recruitment and Training Officer)
Telephone Nos. 813-8331/ 750-1285 Loc. 142 Fax No. 750-1305

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Henkel Philippines, Inc. wishes to recruit one (1) EE for its LOCTITE Division. The successful candidate must be capable of working with less supervision in his own field and must be able to create new sales and maintain its existing customer base.

Qualifications:

He must be a Bachelor of Science Graduate in EE/ECE with at least 3 years experience in the same field. Computer literate.

Executive Secretary

The successful candidate must be capable of working unsupervised in her own field, aggressive with a degree of four (4) year Secretarial course preferably with over 2 years experience with Multinational Companies and with Foreign Manager.

Qualifications:

Bachelor of Science Secretarial Administration, Major in Office Management, female – preferably 24 to 35 years old. Computer literate.

Send your resume with a recent photograph by E-Mail not later than March 23, 2001. This is an **immediate requirement**, so please send your bio-data as soon as possible.

Attn: BELCY P. CRUZ (807-6992 TO 98)
Address: 3rd Floor, ABT Bldg. Acacia Ave.
Madrigal Business Park
Alabang, Muntinlupa
E-mail: Belcy.Cruz @Henkel.com

LOCTITE

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- Male or Female. Graduate of BS Accountancy;
- At least 1 year experience with regards to processing of claims, reimbursements in an insurance, pre need or HMO company;
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- Female. With or without experience;
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- With above average communication skills. Must be computer literate.

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- Female. At least 22 years of age;
- With at least 6 months experience;
- Computer literate.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to send resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at:

BOX MK-58, Philippine Daily Inquirer, c/o Classified Ads Division, Unit III-A Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City or e-mail us at careers_mpi@hotmail.com

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- Fluent in spoken and written English
- Strong customer service orientation
- Willing to work on night shift and on weekends

This is an urgent requirement. Interested applicants should submit their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 photo on or before **March 14, 2001 (Wednesday).**

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HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
4th Flr. San Miguel Properties Center, St. Francis Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
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The HRD Department
FOR (Position Applied for)
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C. SAFETY OFFICERS, college graduates preferably experienced in safety and security procedures with building projects
D. PROPERTY OFFICER, college graduate, experienced in leasing maintenance and marketing of condominiums/real estate

Apply with credentials and NBI clearance at JDBEC, Inc.
Rm-511 Doña Felisa Syjuco Building, Remedios Street corner Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila
E-mail address: jdbecmni@hotmail.com

JPN Japan Philippine Nameplate Inc.

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Rosario, Cavite
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Fax# : (046) 437-1713
E-mail : jpn@okane.skylnet.net
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We are an Information Technology company integrating automated systems for local governments covering OLTP Systems, GIS, and Web Applications. We have an opening for the following positions:

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- preferably with background in Marketing

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- Have at least 1 year work experience

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You can submit your letter of application and resumé to:

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Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City
Or Call 636-4611/12, 910-5251
Contact Person: Miss Margie Gernal
Or e-mail us at: UFI@uniteller.com

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MALATE, MANILA
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COSTING ACCOUNTANT	GRADUATE, AT LEAST 3 YEARS EXPERIENCE WITH KNOWLEDGE IN FURNITURE FACTORY & COMPUTER LITERATE.
STOREKEEPER	3 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN FURNITURE FACTORY & WITH KNOWLEDGE IN COMPUTER.
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR	EXPERIENCE IN FURNITURE FACTORY & IN CHARGE OF THE PRODUCTION.
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Alabang, Muntinlupa City
E-mail Address: askwr@woodrose.curricula.net**

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Please submit your biodata and photo to:

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(Please do not fax or email your biodata and photo)

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Please come for interview from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and bring your Resume, Transcript of Records and recent 2x2-colored picture to:
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Or call at
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Makati City**

Tel.: 813-4757, 813-4608
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An industrial environmental management project of the United Nations Development Programme needs a:

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- Assist in preparing project reports, papers and presentations
- Organize meetings and seminars
- Liaise with government, business and other PRIME partners
- Perform administrative functions

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- Interest in environmental management

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Send letter and resumé by 16 March 2001 to the Programme Manager, PRIME Project, 3/F BOI, 385 Gil Puyat Avenue, 1209 Makati, Metro Manila or fax to 899-5688 or 895-8233 or email to primeproject@hotmail.com

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Female, at least 35 years old, CPA, 5 years working experience as Auditor from a reputable auditing firm. With experience in Software Audit, 2 years experience as head of Finance and Accounting Department.

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Male, 24-30 years old. College graduate major in Marketing. Preferably with experience in the field of sales and marketing having been exposed to shipping. Fresh college graduate inclined to sales work are welcome.

Please send your comprehensive bio-data with 2x2 colored picture including list of duties and responsibilities at:

**BOX KA-007-SI
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Then see us on MARCH 12 at 10:00 am OR 1:00 pm OR 3:00 pm, OR MAR. 13 at 1:00 pm OR 3:00 pm OR 5:00 pm, at Room. 410, 4/F, Jollibee Plaza Bldg., Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center (near Robinsons Galeria and Greenhills Christian Fellowship). Clip and bring this ad. For provincial inquiries, email:

pinoyebusiness@lockon.com

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- College graduate
- Must be accurate, fast and smart
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- Preferably with 2-3 years experience

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- Knowledge in dyeing and color matching is preferable
- The above applicants who had experience either in one of the above industries may also apply.

ACCOUNTANT

- Female, not more than 35 years old. Commerce graduates
- With experience in bookkeeping and accounting related works
- Knowledge in speaking Chinese languages is an advantage
- With or without license

Interested applicants may send their resumé, recent photo and transcript of records to:

L.G. ATKIMSON IMPORT-EXPORT, INC.
627 Del Monte Avenue cor. G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Besides Equitable-PCI Bank & Sergio Osmeña School, infront of Gion's Supermarket
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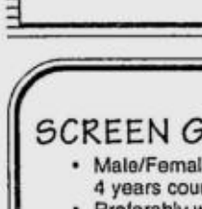

SEQUTECH CORPORATION, a fast growing multimillion company engaged in hi-tech security and home & business automation systems, affiliated with Visonic Ltd of Tel Aviv, Israel, is in need of dynamic individuals for its Credit & Collection Department.

CREDIT INVESTIGATORS

- Male, 21 years old and above and of good moral character
- Graduate of any 4-year course from a reputable school
- Excellent communication skills – oral and written
- Experience in credit and collection is an advantage but not necessary
- A team player---assertive, diplomatic and confident to work with people from different levels
- Honest, reliable and hardworking
- Must have at least 2 years of driving experience (motorcycle) and a valid driver's license

Apply in person and bring resumé, two (2) passport-sized pictures and a valid ID.
Schedule of Application: **March 12-14, 2001** (10:00 am to 4:00 pm)
Suite 808, PSBANK Tower,
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor Tindalo St., Makati City
ask for Ms. Nancy Manlangit

SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

March 11, 2001
Volume 14 No. 1

Picture Perfect

Through the Eyes of the Filipino Photographer

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Discover the power of the photograph, as captured by some of the country's current best. The Filipino photographer has journeyed far and wide, and has kept record of it all. Through the work and words of Bullit Marquez, Denise Weldon, Boy Pitoy, Patrick Uy, Gutsy Tuason, Raul Teehankee, August de la Cruz and Ronnie Salvacion, we explore some of the diverse styles and unique souls of Philippine photography

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The Cover Image Discover the faces behind the frames. SIM zooms in on some of the country's top photographers in this special issue: (Clockwise, from top left) Boy Pitoy, Bullit Marquez, Patrick Uy, Ronnie Salvacion, August de la Cruz, Gutsy Tuason, Denise Weldon and Raul Teehankee.

YOUNG SIMPLE PEOPLE

I AM not much of an SIM reader but one time I got hold of a copy and read your feature story on Ms Maningning Miclat ("Death and the Maiden," SIM, Jan. 28, 2001). I felt the tragic loss of this young, intelligent and highly talented lady. I have never stopped thinking about her and the possible bright future that she could have had in the field of arts. Since then I always pray for her soul during my daily attendance of the Holy Mass. Nevertheless, that sadness in my heart was greatly consoled when I read the story of Nona Garcia ("The Art of a Winner," SIM, February 18, 2001). This young newcomer is full of promise and enthusiasm, and her humility is exemplary. She is truly inspiring!

Keep up your feature stories of simple people who have touched our lives in ways that no celebrated tycoon, politician, movie star or rock star has ever done!

J.L. VERGARA
Davao City

CLARISSA PLEASE

COULD you please feature star witness Ms Clarissa Ocampo in SIM? I want to know more about her. Thanks.

CHARINA MAY ABUNDIO
Anonas St., Q.C.

OPEN MIND

COULD you please tell Aslie and Triccia ("Girls in Love," SIM, Feb. 11, 2001) that they are so lucky to have each other without having to risk their own personalities? I think it's great to have someone you could be with, sincerely. And to the writer, congratulations. You have done a good job in opening us, the readers, to new views and perceptions. It's a good thing you have an open mind about this. Good luck to Aslie and Triccia, as well as to the Sunday Inquirer.

VIM
ajboom@talkcity.com

TEXT LOVERS TOO

THE article "Diary of a Text Affair" (SIM, Feb. 25, 2001) was really great. I thought I was the only person who experienced that kind of love through text messaging. The difference is I don't have a family of my own, and my relationship reached a higher level of intimacy. Everybody knows that with a text messaging relationship, the bond is hard to feel, but my love and I have proven that wrong. In the end, if it was meant to be, it is still us who decide whether we stay strong or not. My life was a mess before I met her, but when she came, for the first time in my life I had someone who was always there. My family interfered in our relationship, but that didn't stop me from loving her more. I never stopped believing in her. We're still together, and all of this happened in less than three months. I know it's weird, but this is true. Thank you, Ms. J, for inspiring me. God bless you and your family always!

MAY-I G. PADILLA
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Cover Story
by the SIM Staff

From haunting portraits to human dramas, natural wonders and paparazzi flashes – Filipino photographers have caught them all. SIM pays tribute to a few of the best who have made their mark with images that say more than any words ever could

The Eyes of the Masters

The Photojournalist
Bullit Marquez

The diminutive veteran is as fast as his name when it comes to being in the right place at the right time

THE MAN BEHIND THE LENS, ALBERTO (BULLIT) MARQUEZ, 45, TOOK UP BS CHEMISTRY AT UP DILIMAN BUT ENDED UP AS CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. A MULTI-AWARDED PHOTOJOURNALIST, HE HAS COVERED INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, AMONG THEM THE SEOUL OLYMPICS, THE STUDENT RIOTS AT TIANANMEN SQUARE, POPE JOHN PAUL'S VISIT TO EAST TIMOR, THE APEC MEETINGS AND THE RIOTS IN INDONESIA. HE HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE PULITZER PRIZE TWICE AND HAS WON THE FOLLOWING AWARDS: SECOND PLACE IN THE 57TH PICTURE OF THE YEAR FOR "INDONESIA PROTEST II" SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION IN THE US IN 1999, AND THE KALAKBAY AWARD FOR TRAVEL PHOTO OF THE YEAR FOR A BATANES SHOT IN 1995. HIS PHOTOGRAPH GRACED THE COVER OF THE BOOK, "THE PHILIPPINES, A JOURNEY THROUGH THE ARCHIPELAGO," WHILE ANOTHER MADE IT AS THE PATTERN FOR THE COMMEMORATIVE P2,000 BILL ISSUED IN 1998.

Bullit Marquez (pointing, at center) photographed in action by Vincent Uy at Edsa 2: "We are Filipinos too, very much concerned and affected by what will unfold. In the last People Power, I found myself jumping and cheering when the end came."

A Good Picture

"A good picture is something that should be able to capture the drama, the feelings and the essence of the story. It should be able to touch or relate to the viewer in the same manner that writers are able to convey their stories to their readers. I remember my trip to Bangladesh to cover the worst cyclone disaster in their history, which killed more than 150,000 people. I photographed a child-evacuee cuddling her brother who was born on the day of the cyclone. The parents named him 'Jolabas' which, I found out, meant 'hope.' It was a very moving photograph, such that people in Europe started donating money for the boy's scholarship. Certainly, it was one of my favorite pictures."

Mayon Volcano eruption: "The picture shows the fearsome power of the volcano that is beyond human control."

Best Shot

"I really can't say. Taking photographs is a continuing process and you can't tell which will turn out to be the best. Also, I consider all my shots good."

Horror Story

"I covered the riots and political turmoil in Indonesia and suddenly, there were all these people getting shot and stabbed right before my eyes. I couldn't take the shot, it was so horrible. And I felt so helpless and frustrated and unable to do anything. In such hostile situations, your first instinct is safety. As they say, no picture is worth your life." **Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz**

Indonesia Protest II

Hands with rock

The Portraitist

Denise Weldon

A respect for the uniqueness of each individual has made her portraits unforgettable

Denise Weldon, photographed by husband Manny Miñana

"I HAVE HAD THE LOVELY OPPORTUNITY TO PHOTOGRAPH BUSINESS PEOPLE, HOMEMAKERS, ARTISTS, AUTHORS, FAMILIES, CHILDREN, CITY PEOPLE AND COUNTRY PEOPLE," EXPLAINS 36-YEAR-OLD DENISE WELDON. "IN MY EYES, EACH OF THEM IS SPECIAL." DENISE, WHO IS OF AMERICAN-SPANISH DESCENT, BEGAN TAKING UP PHOTOGRAPHY AS A HOBBY WHILE LIVING IN THAILAND, WHERE SHE'D PHOTOGRAPH PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND WET MARKETS. MARRIED TO ARCHITECT MANNY MIÑANA AND MOTHER TO SON ALEJANDRO, DENISE NOW KEEPS A BUSY MALATE STUDIO AND IS ALSO CURRENTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF HER SECOND EXHIBIT AT THE LUZ GALLERY, WHICH RUNS UNTIL THE 22ND OF MARCH. ADDITIONALLY, SHE WILL ALSO BE PART OF AN EXHIBIT AT MARTHA'S VINEYARD IN MASSACHUSETTS THIS SUMMER. THE MOTTO THAT HAS KEPT HER PORTRAITS DISTINCT IN THEIR HONESTY: "EACH PERSON IS AN INDIVIDUAL, AND THEREIN LIES THE DIFFERENCE."

The Travel Photographer

Quintin "Boy" Pitoy

He has covered 10 secretaries of tourism and combed the country in search of that perfect scenic moment to catch on film

THE FIRST TIME QUINTIN "BOY" PITOY HELD A CAMERA WAS AT AGE 12 IN HIS FATHER'S STUDIO, CALLED IDEAL, IN HIS HOMETOWN OF TAGBILARAN, BOHOL, WHERE HE WAS SHOOTING EVERYTHING FROM WEDDINGS TO FUNERALS. HE EVENTUALLY CAME TO MANILA TO STUDY FINE ARTS AND WORK AS A STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHER, BUT RETURNED HOME TO RUN THE STUDIO AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH. THE BIG CITY CALLED AGAIN, WHERE PITOY WORKED AS A DISPLAY WINDOW ARTIST BEFORE JOINING BOB RAZON AND LATER, THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, THEN KNOWN AS THE BOARD OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM, IN 1969. SINCE THEN, THE 63-YEAR-OLD PITOY HAS STUCK CLOSE TO 10 DEPARTMENT SECRETARIES, FROM JOSE ASPIRAS TO THE INCUMBENT RICHARD GORDON, AND HAS COMBED THE COUNTRY IN SEARCH OF POSTCARD-PERFECT SHOTS.

A Good Picture

"A good picture has good lighting. It's also about timing; even prize-winning photos happened because the photographer was there at the right moment. A good picture captures that moment. You just have to know where to look. That's why I love shooting nature; you don't have to look very hard."

Boy Pitoy, photographed by Johnny Villena

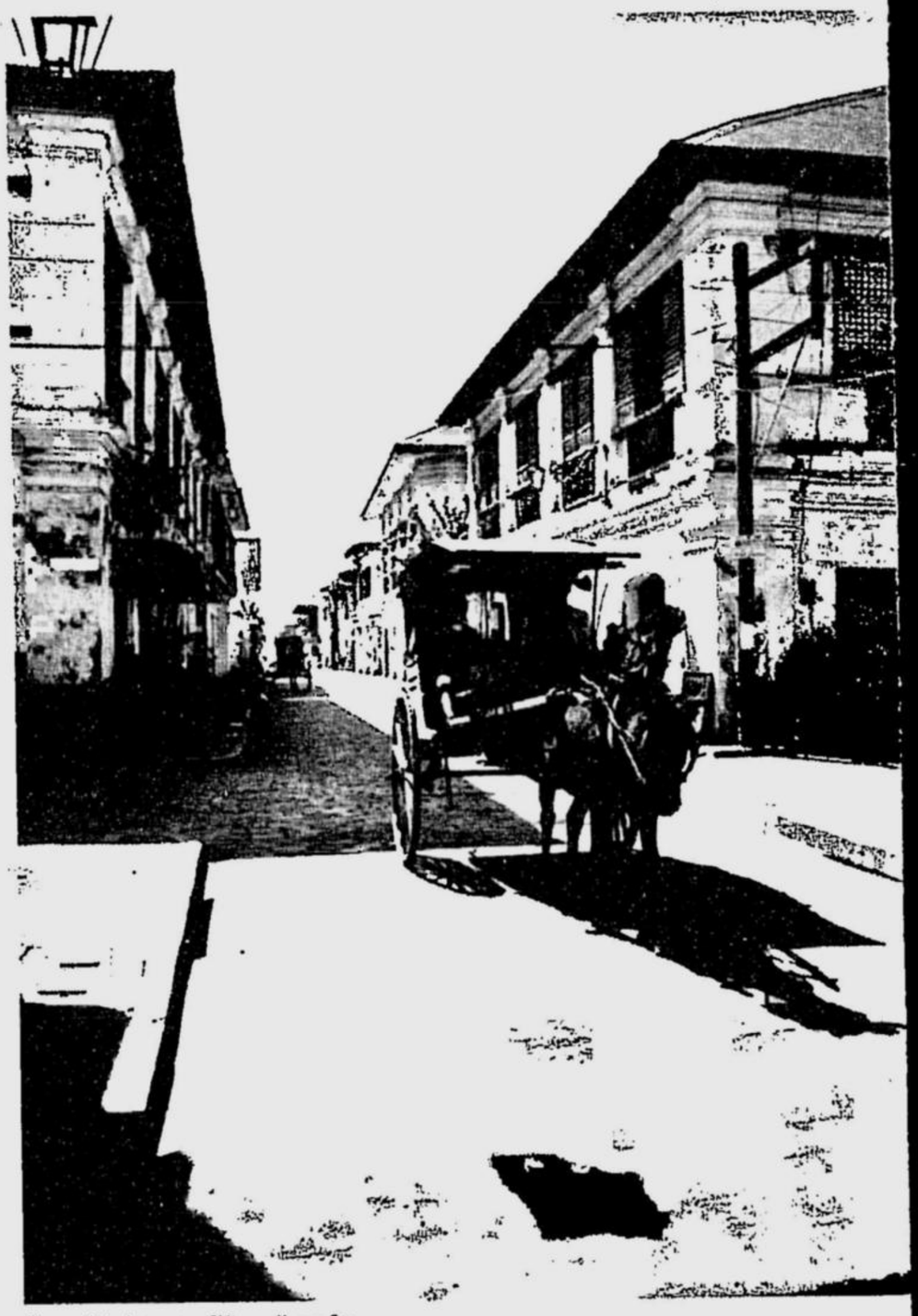
Best Shot

"All my shots of Batanes. It is such a quiet, beautiful place, and you feel the people are still pure. Also my pictures of the Turtle Islands."

Horror Story

"I'm still a little deaf from the time we were in a *banca* in Dumaguete and the waves were so big. I protected my camera, but the big waves kept crashing against my head and my ears filled with water. Once I was also in a small plane, right beside the engine – and it exploded. The plane shook all the way until we landed."

Alya B. Honasan



The cobbled streets of Vigan, Ilocos Sur

Young boy with dog

A Good Picture

"First, the subject must be comfortable and feel good about himself or herself. And second, the viewer must be able to sense that in the picture."

Best Shot

"This photograph of hands holding a rock. This shot was taken for a body of work on hands as sensory elements of design. The hands belonged to a wonderful janitor named Jim with whom I enjoyed talking."

Horror Story

"None really. I have been lucky so far." **Ruel S. De Vera**

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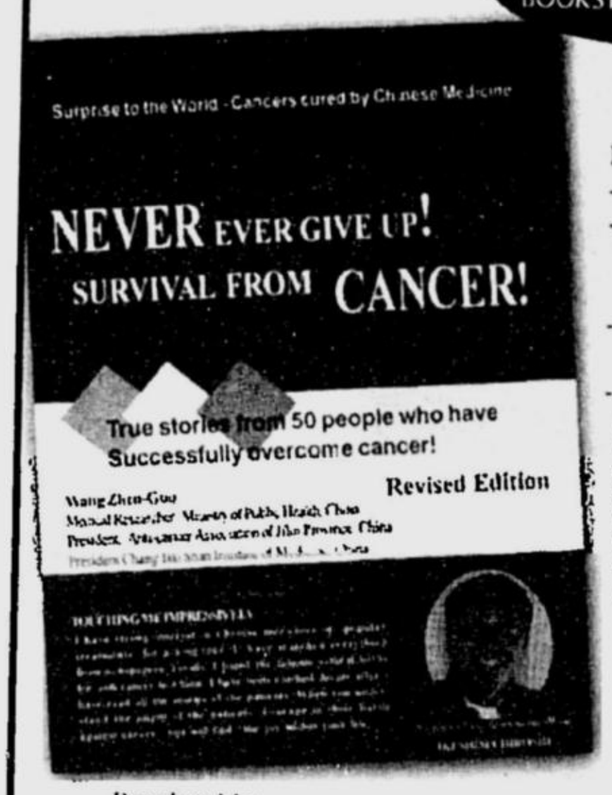

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The Wedding Photographer

Patrick Uy

Meet the man to call to chronicle your happy ending

PATRICK UY, 40, STARTED AS A SERIOUS HOBBYIST BEFORE HE TURNED PRO. HIS PHOTOGRAPHIC EDUCATION INCLUDES WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS ON STUDIO WORK, HANDS-ON TRAINING "WITH MANILA'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHER EMIL DAVOCOL, AND LOTS OF BOOKS AND MAGAZINES." UY WON BEST IN PRINT PHOTOGRAPHY FOR ADVERTISING FOR HIS BENCH ADS.

A Good Picture

"The photo must tell a story, a good happy story, with the bride and groom simply looking fabulous. Shooting a good picture means seeing something in your viewfinder that you have not shot before and finding something intrinsically unique to the wedding. What makes it different? What is the ambiance, the mood? It means capturing the moments for my couple so that they can look back at the photos and recall happy memories."

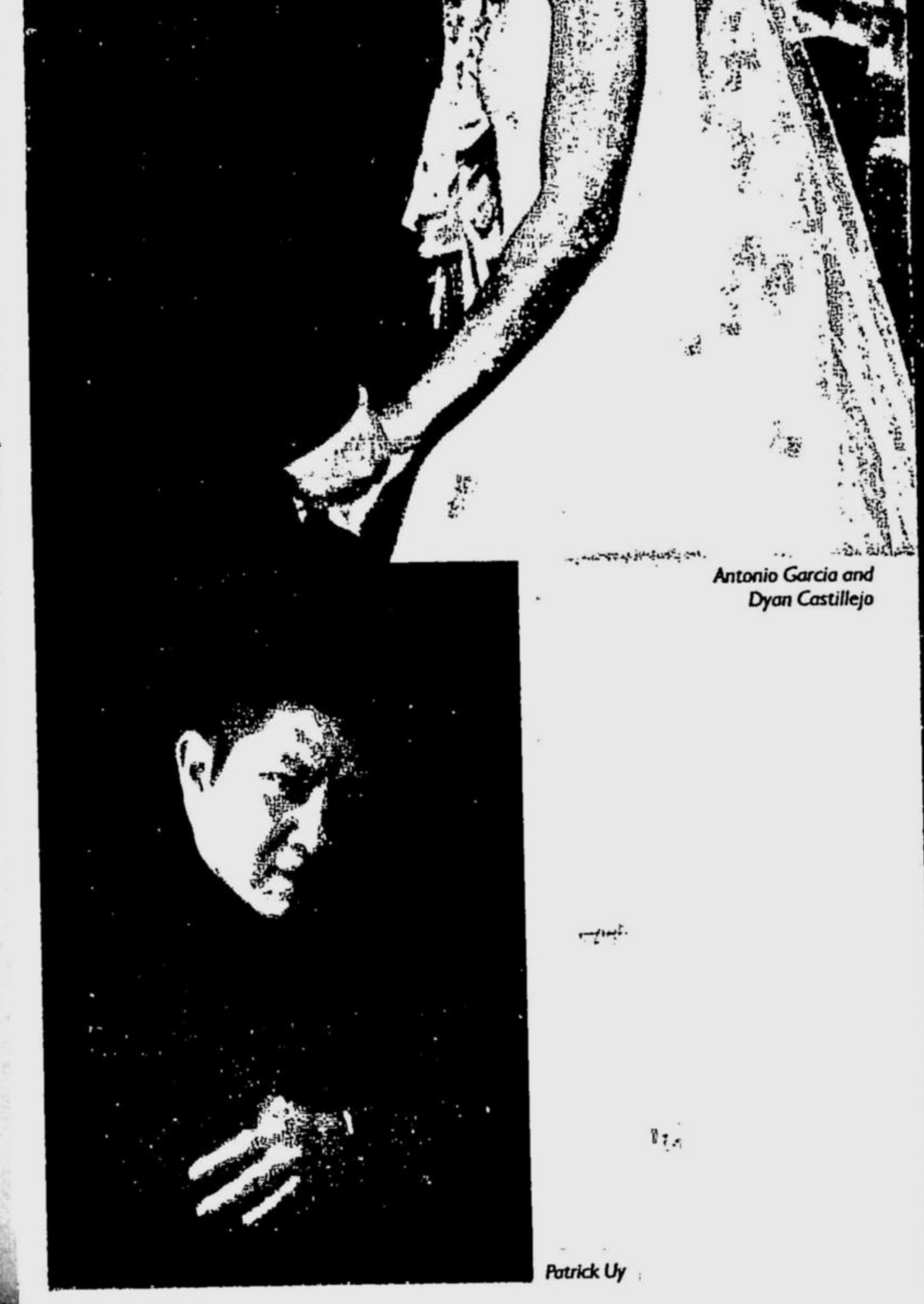
Best Shot

"Last weekend's wedding; I'm only as good as my last wedding. Each wedding is unique, and the personal touches of the newlyweds must be seen as part of the photo documentation. After all, it is a privilege and honor for me to be given the opportunity to photograph a couple's most awaited date. My most memorable weddings include that of Beaver and Jackie Lopez, Alfred and Cherry Tan, Henri and Bea Lhuillier, Jimmy and Hope Tang, Edwin and Arlene Tang, Martin and Yedda Romualdez, Dax and Sheila Carlos, Raj and Apples Sadwahni and a lot more. Each wedding has its moments, and I like to capture the emotions, the tears of joy. And the best part – party time! – when people just let their hair down and everyone dances like nobody's watching."

Horror Story

"When the bride's gown came a mere 30 minutes before the wedding, and it had yet to be pressed! The poor bride prepared for the wedding for a year and in the end, she was reduced to tears by the designer."

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz



Antonio Garcia and Dyan Castillejo

Patrick Uy

Lovely bride Sheila Dizon Carlos

Poetry

Pillow Fight

of course, it was always a fight
when we were young, my sister's
screams flat on the down
pressing on her seven-year-old
mouth. whenever my pudgy arms
grew tired, she would bounce,
her pig-tails flailing
as her trajectory would be
so unerringly precise. of course
i would always reel a little
from the sofa cushions finding
their way onto my back.
the scream would then come from me,
and she would run and it would be
a fight all over again all over
the house until our still-
forming legs would give up and out,
eventually. but now,

older and tired of it,
the pillows become not armaments,
but armors and gags where
screams and sobs and all sounds
still flatten into silences.
last night, i could hear her
crying herself into the softness
of her bed, muffling herself
onto the pillow as if she would meld
into the cases and sheets and lay
inert altogether. but of course,
she would never do that, she could
never not make all her sadness pour
out from her self, so i comfort her
as best as i could: i lend her another
pillow, my own, with its own salty history.

Mark Anthony Reyes Cayanan

Kalabit

Huwag kalabitin ang aking katwiran
ngayong gabi matapos maupos ang lakas
at walang saplot na magkayapos tayong
kinukumutan ng dilim. Huwag akong
tanungin kung hanggang kailan at saan
aalingawngaw ang ating kundiman,
walang katiyakan na tataginting
ngayong nangangarap ang sanlibutan.
May pabigat ang aking mga talukap,
ayokong magmulat. Yumakap na lamang
nang lalong mahigpit, mahimbing
sa oyayi ng pananahimik. Ipagpasalamat
ang pagkakalapat ng ating mga dibdib.

Michael M. Coroza

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine is accepting contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed a copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <slm@inquirer.com.ph>

LIVING IN THE HIGHEST

Too Fat To Handle

You better watch out!

by Pete F. Galvez

A curious command had been set forth in the Book of Life from ancient times: *The Lord said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites: 'Do not eat any of the fat of cattle, sheep or goats.'"* [Instead] *"burn the fat as an aroma pleasing to the Lord"* (LEVITICUS 7:23 and 17:6). In the Old Testament the Book of Leviticus alone mentions **"fat"** *forty-nine times!*

> God ... is able to do IMMEASURABLY MORE than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us ... EPHESIANS 3:20

The *first* time fat was offered is mentioned in the *first* book of the Bible: . . . *"Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. TheLord looked with favor on Abel and his offering . . ."* (GENESIS 4:4). Fat offerings to God from the very beginning!

What's this all about? Is it because God may be the ultimate gourmet who prefers the aroma of burning fat than any other burnt portions of the animals mentioned? Or is it that fat fire blazes best? Or both?

Believe it or not, this is all about God's love for us — an ancient practice very much applicable in our life today. In fact, it's a universal expression of God's love for His people since the garden of Eden. Here's why . . .

Savory, savory. Fat is what makes popular dishes like steak, *bulalo, pochero, kare-kare, lechon, crispy pata,* processed meat (ham and sausages) tasty and delicious. And thanks to fatty chicken skin, chicken *chicharon* belongs to the top-listed. So are chocolate, ice cream, butter and cheese. How about crab eggs?

Indeed, some of the best things in life come from the pleasure of indulging in our favorite food. Many consider life would be *blah* without these palate delights. On the other hand, life can be endangered by having more than what nature requires. No, it's not overeating (although this surely contributes to health problems). It's simply taking in reasonable amounts of dinner goodies loaded with unreasonable amounts of animal fat, together with delectables fried, for instance, in coconut oil — all known sources of saturated fatty acids. (French fries, anyone?) These are what make many of our favorite foods simply yummy. And destructive.

The AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION reiterates on the Internet that "Saturated fatty acids are the main dietary culprit in raising blood cholesterol. A high level of cholesterol in the blood is a major risk factor for heart attack (coronary heart disease)." Any self-respecting practicing physician anywhere in the world would readily agree to this. But this is nothing new to quite a number of us. As you well know . . .

Foods from animals that have high amounts of saturated fatty acids include, beef, beef fat, pork, lard, poultry fat, butter, cream, milk, cheese, and other dairy products made from whole milk. Foods from plants that contain high amounts of saturated fatty acids include coconut oil, palm oil and palm kernel oil (often called tropical oils), and cocoa butter.

Fat from other sources. There is another kind of fat that also provides pleasure and at the same time destroys — the likes of dangerous drugs (for a slow death), not heeding "drink moderately" (injures relationships and inevitably burns livers), extramarital incursions (wrecks marriages and families), the so-called "Spirit of the U.S.A." (causes stroke, hardening of the arteries, emphysema, lung and throat cancer and other serious respiratory ailments both on users and exposed non-users), and you and I know what else.

What else includes the most insidious of them all, the Self (insatiable lover of all kinds of fat), from which issues forth greed, pride and its twin brother prejudice, impatience, revenge, deception, avarice, covetousness, indifference, mental dishonesty — you name it. All strong evidences of man's hard-to-shake-off *Me First* life stance.

Even ignoring repeated warnings on bad cholesterol is a stubborn King Me ("My will be done") undertaking.

A parallel command. Fat offerings mean to give to God what we love but destroys us. And the bastion of self-destruction is the self. So, because of His love for us, He promulgates a decree to protect us from ourselves: (Jesus said) *"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me"* (Luke 9:23). The Living Bible expresses the same command more clearly: *"Anyone who wants to follow Me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him everyday and keep close to me!"* In Tagalog the underscored phrase translates, *Patayin si ako araw-araw.* Before it's too late. This includes realizing that what we think is *good* for us often hinders us from discovering what is *best* for us. And the all-knowing God certainly knows what's best for us. The precise biblical meaning of carrying one's cross is the death of destructive *self.* How?

The first step to this kind of death is submitting completely to Him, including all the destructive fats in our life. Our weaknesses for His strength. Only then can we receive empowering from Him to enable us to effectively conquer the self — toward a remarkable life-change. In Metro Manila alone, countless Christians have experienced victory after victory in their continuing experience of one of the most formidable battle cries in the Book of Life: *God is able to do immeasurable more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us* (EPHESIANS 3:20).

" . . . overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us enough to die for us" (ROMANS 8:37 • THE LIVING BIBLE). This unshakable, tried and tested truth is part of the Good News. And *living in the highest* — victoriously!

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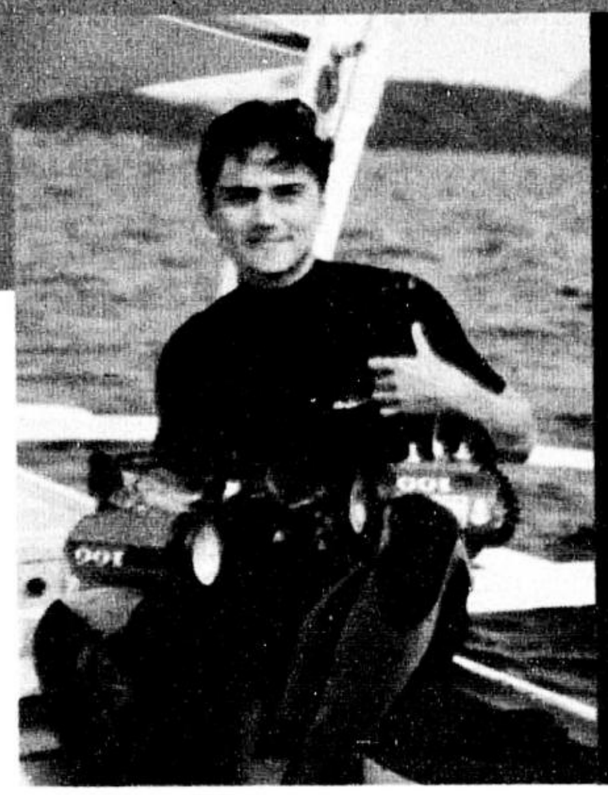
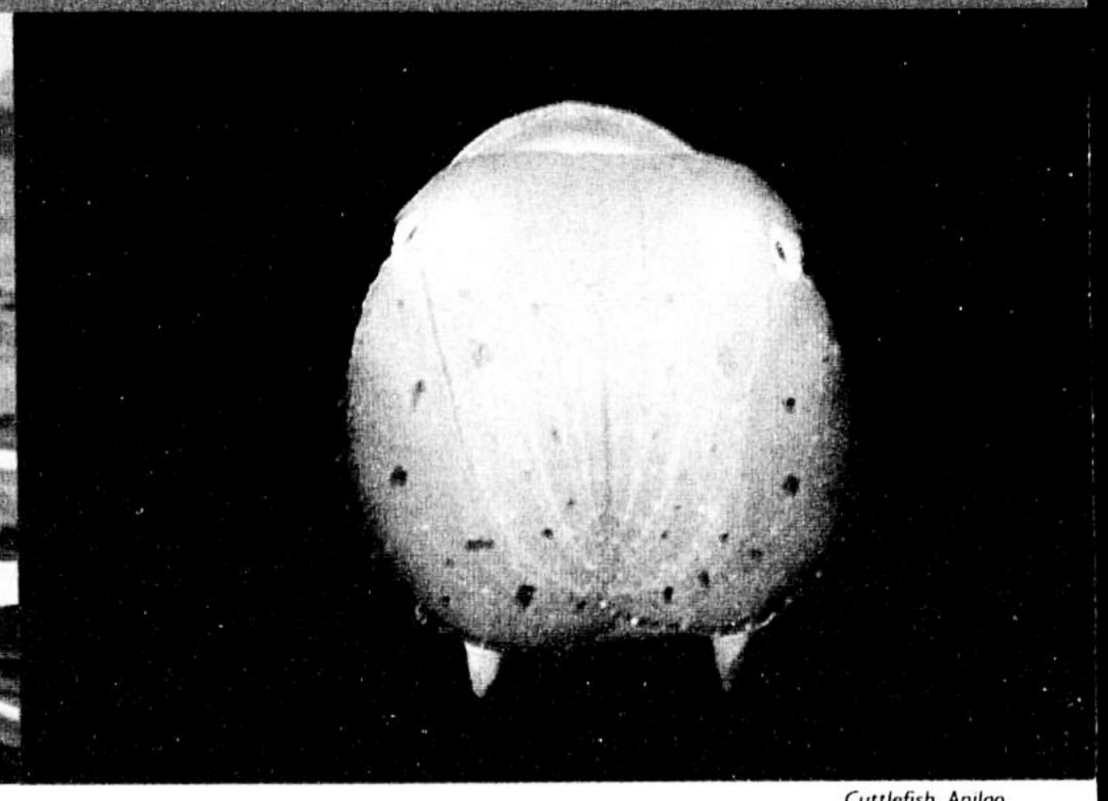
Gutsy Tuason, photographed by Becca Dosch





Cuttlefish, Anilao, Batangas (published in "Anilao")

The Underwater Photographer

Gutsy Tuason

Respect for his wild subjects and an exquisite eye for light have given him images that are truly out of this world

SCOTT "GUTSY" TUASON HAS BEEN SHOOTING SINCE HE WAS 8, HAVING LEARNED THE BASICS OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROM HIS FATHER. AT 16, HE GOT HIS FIRST UNDERWATER SET, A NIKONOS V WITH A 35 MM LENS, WHICH HE TOOK WITH HIM TO COLLEGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA IN FLORIDA. ALTHOUGH TUASON EVENTUALLY SHIFTED TO ECONOMICS FROM HIS ORIGINAL MARINE BIOLOGY COURSE – "NOT WHAT I EXPECTED IT TO BE!" – HE ALSO GOT A CHANCE TO DIVE IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS. THE PHOTOGRAPHS HE TOOK HOME FROM THAT TRIP CONVINCED HIM THAT HE WAS ON TO SOMETHING GOOD.

A certified dive instructor (although he has never really certified anyone himself), the 32-year-old Tuason now does almost all of his shooting underwater, although his topside shots are just as stunning. He sees himself as a specialist in the field, although his theory is that "it's hard to make a living doing underwater photography because the people who do it love it so much, they're willing to do it whether they get paid or not!" Tuason shoots regularly for regional magazines like Asian Diver and Action Asia, pushes his work on the Web, and recently scored a coup with fellow photographer Dodo Cu-unjieng when their photo book, "Anilao," ran off with the top prize in the 27th Festival of Underwater Images in Antibes, France last year.

A Good Picture

"I always try and balance ambient light with my own lights, so an image is just the way you see it underwater, as natural as possible. There's the composition, and you also have to consider what the animal is doing. You have to remember you're in an environment that's not really yours and you're taking photographs of wild animals, so you can't really tell them what to do!"

Best Shot

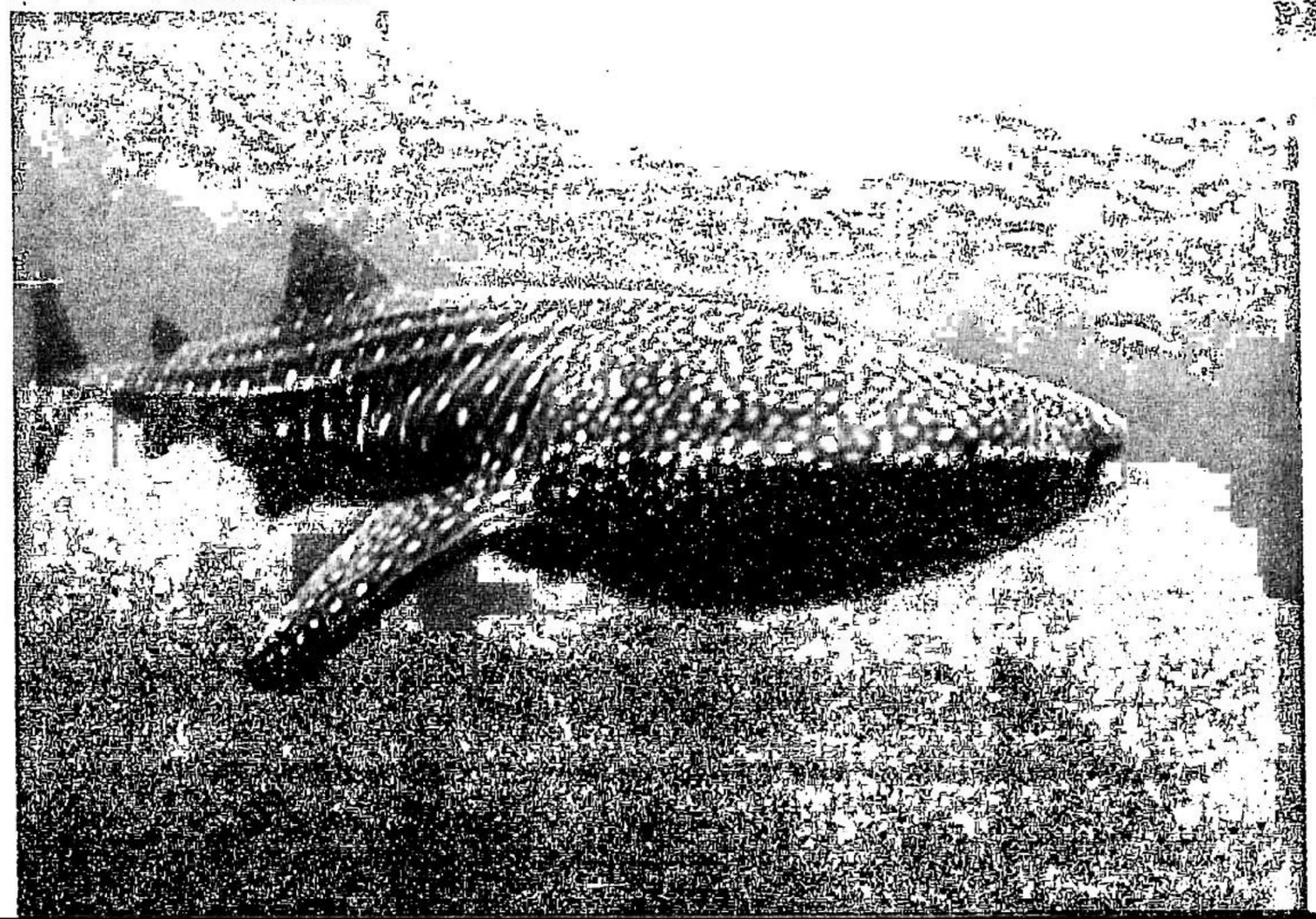
"There's this memorable picture of a cuttlefish, about half the size of a thumbnail, that I took on an afternoon dive in Basura in Anilao, Batangas. I remember how it was facing me, head on. I knew it was going to be a good shot, because he was perfectly symmetrical."

Horror Story

"I saw a tiger shark in Tubbataha, and I was so in awe of the animal that I forgot to take a picture! I would love to have that moment in time back. I just couldn't believe I was seeing it. It was so huge, and I had a perfect set-up. That was one opportunity I really missed out on."

Alya B. Honasan

Whale shark, Palawan



The Paparazzo

Raul Teehankee

The ultimate party animal with a camera has been rewarded with the hottest celebrity photo scoops in town

RAUL TEEHANKEE USED TO DO MAGAZINES WHILE WORKING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, AND WOULD HIRE PHOTOGRAPHERS LIKE PANCHO ESCALER AND JUN DE LEON FOR HIS PROJECTS. ALONG THE WAY, DE LEON TOLD HIM HE SHOULD GET INTO PHOTOGRAPHY HIMSELF BECAUSE HE HAD A GOOD EYE. SEVERAL EXHIBITS, BOOKS AND, OF COURSE, PUBLISHED SHOTS LATER, TEEHANKEE HASN'T TURNED BACK. HE LEARNED FROM BOOKS AND NEVER HAD A FORMAL LESSON IN PHOTOGRAPHY, AND PLANS TO DO MORE OF DIGITAL AND COMPUTER WORK IN THE FUTURE.

The lensman with Cindy Crawford

A Good Picture

"Nothing contrived; even if it is a posed shot, it should not look posed. I don't like seeing cloned photographs, meaning something I've seen before in an Avedon or Newton book. I also like Leibovitz, La Chapelle, Knight and Mapplethorpe."

Best Shot

"I'm proud of my men shots, although I still have to produce my best shot. My dream is to land a Time or Newsweek cover where they feature lifestyle or celebrity figures as main stories."

The Sports Photographer

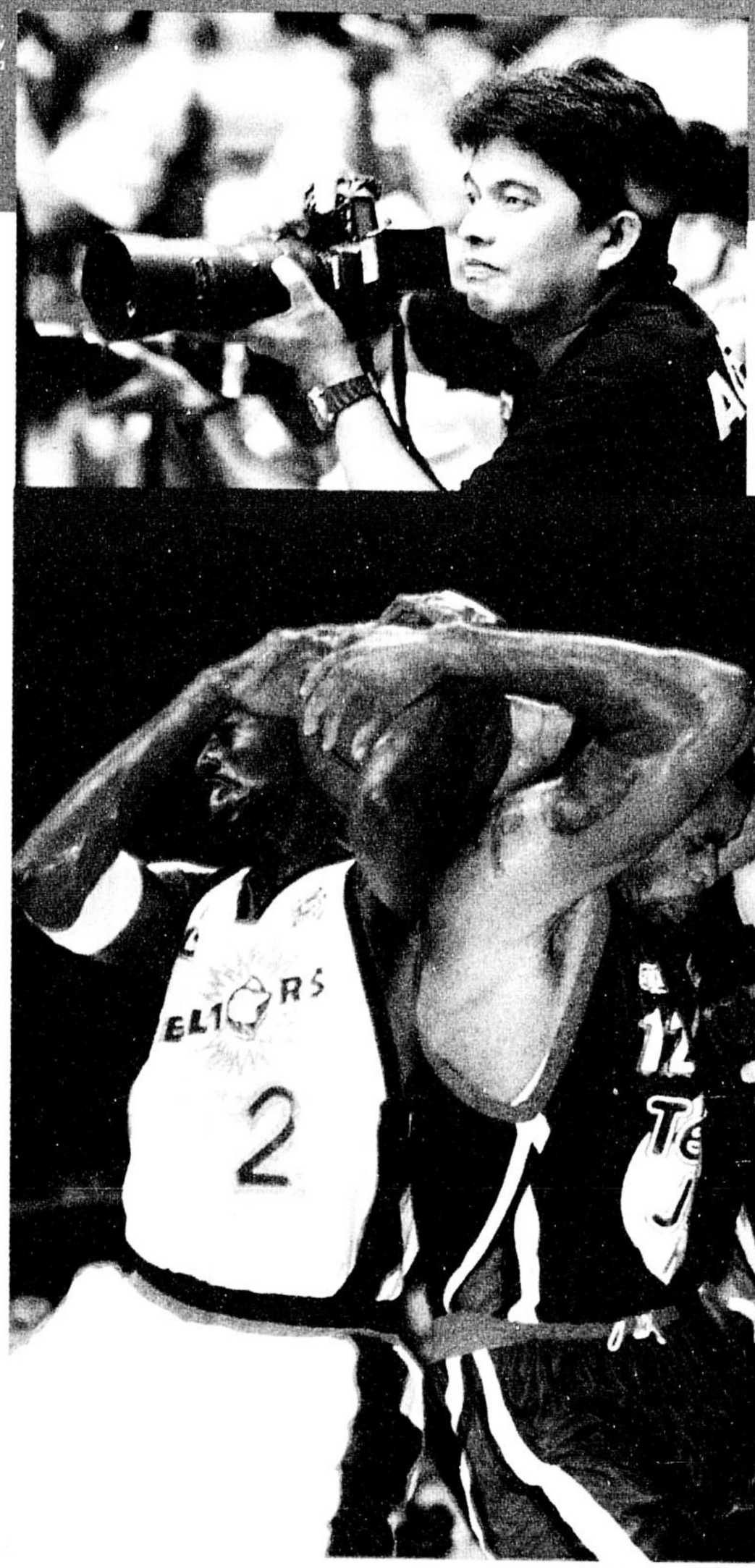
August de la Cruz

Capturing the unpredictability and drama of sports keeps this ace on his toes

MAYBE IT'S THE 20 OR SO AWARDS THAT HE HAS WON FOR HIS PHOTOGRAPHY, BUT AUGUST DE LA CRUZ IS AT THE TOP OF HIS GAME WHEN IT COMES TO SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY. A PERENNIAL WINNER OF THE PBA TILTS, THE 42-YEAR-OLD FINE ARTS GRADUATE USED TO PAINT AND ACTUALLY STARTED OUT AS A COMMERCIAL AND SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER, TAKING CARE OF ADVERTISING SHOOTS AND SCHOOL EVENTS. "BUT WHEN MY DAUGHTER STARTED PLAYING BASKETBALL AND I BEGAN SHOOTING HER," HE REMEMBERS, "SOMETHING JUST CLICKED." HE LIKED THE INDEPENDENCE OF IT; EVERYTHING WAS DYNAMIC, IN MOTION.

Since then, August has carved a niche for himself as someone in the thick of the action, whether it be in basketball, boxing, volleyball or something else. Currently covering for The Daily Tribune, August says it's the unpredictability of sports, the inherent drama that draws him to it. "You can prepare all you want, but you never know what's going to happen. Every game is different."

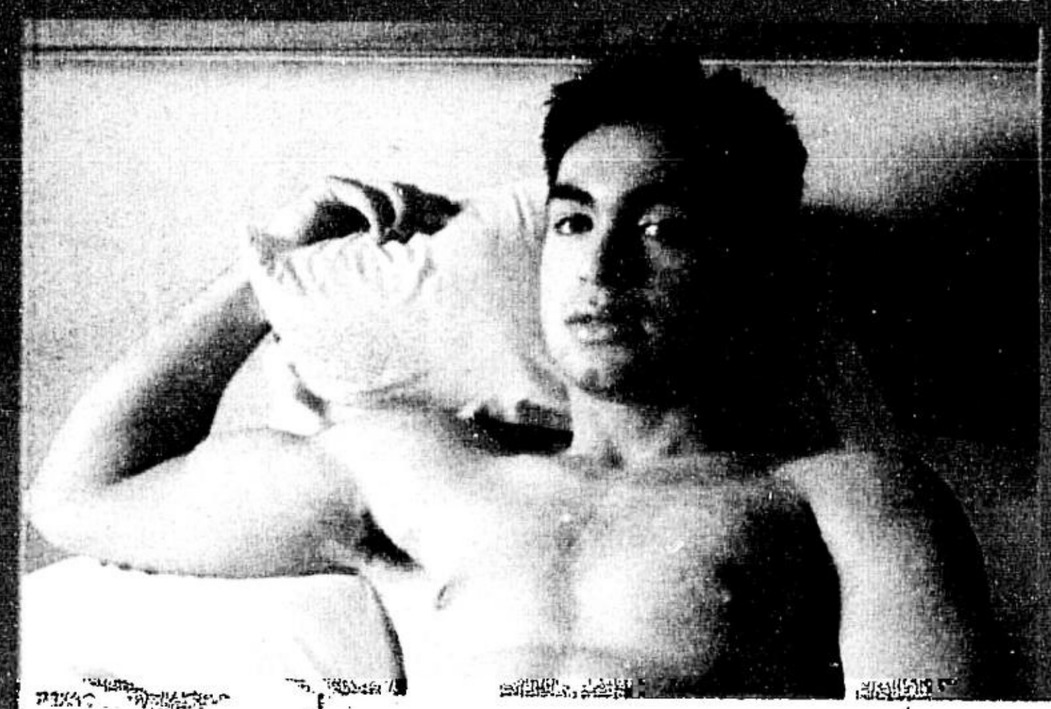
August de la Cruz, photographed by Ramy Homillada



"Double Atlas"

Horror Story
"Nothing really horrible. On two occasions, I had to wait for a family to get together for their cover shot. The mom went to the parlor. One son had to accompany her, etc. etc. I did not pack up because the magazine editor was around and she had arranged the shoot. Otherwise, it was so boring. Now if it was the President or Tom Cruise, I would have been excited and waited with gusto."

Eric Caruncho



Carlos Agassi

Lou Diamond Phillips

A Good Picture
"There should be human interest in the photo that goes beyond the sport. A sense of drama. I also try hard to see the sense of humor in a shot, not just the action."

Best Shot
"The photograph I call 'Double Atlas.' I feel that I won't be able to shoot this one again, and it speaks of the essence of sports, with the two Atlas figures."

Horror Story
"The time I was shooting a PBA game and (Tanduay player) Sonny Alvarado fell out of bounds and wound up sitting on me. I protected the camera, so I took the impact. And then, another time, I waited until I found the perfect moment – click! – and found out I was out of film."

Ruel S. De Vera

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For ages 50 to 70 yrs. old

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Privilege Class Plan doubles your life insurance coverage in case of accidental death from the effectivity date of the policy until the time before you reach the age of 80.

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After three years of payment, your policy begins to accumulate cash and loan values. That's cash you can use for financial emergencies.

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✔ Low Never-Increasing Premiums!

Your premiums are guaranteed never to increase as you grow older. In fact, on the policy anniversary immediately after your 80th birthday, your premium payments are guaranteed to go even lower.

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Benefits payable under the Privilege Class Plan are paid directly to your beneficiaries with no intermediaries involved.

PLUS! EARNS CASH DIVIDENDS!

Your **Privilege Class Plan** policy earns cash dividends that allow you to build up your policy benefits. For example, for those aged 50 applying for 20 units, after 15 years your policy's total benefits would amount to as much as two and a half million pesos.

PRIVILEGE CLASS PLAN

TABLE OF BENEFITS, PREMIUMS AND DIVIDENDS

The amount of benefits you will receive is based on your own age when you apply and the number of units you select. These benefits do not decrease as you grow older. The sooner you apply, the more lifetime benefits you get. You may select two, eight, or up to 20 units of coverage. If the insured dies during the first two years of the policy through natural causes, Insular Life's liability shall be limited to an amount equal to all premiums paid plus 10% interest per annum. If the insured dies due to natural causes after (2) years, the full benefit shown in the schedule shall be payable. If the insured dies due to an accident at any time before the age of 80, the amount payable shall be doubled the full benefit shown in the schedule.

AMOUNT OF BENEFITS

The amount of benefits will be doubled in case of death due to accident before the age of 80.

Age	2 units	4 units	6 units	8 units	10 units	20 units
50	₱100,000	200,000	300,000	400,000	500,000	1,000,000
51	95,560	191,120	286,680	382,240	477,800	955,600
52	91,320	182,640	273,960	365,280	456,600	913,200
53	87,240	174,480	261,720	348,960	436,200	872,400
54	80,440	160,880	241,320	321,760	402,200	804,400
55	76,560	153,120	229,680	306,240	382,800	765,600
56	72,600	145,200	217,800	290,400	363,000	726,000
57	68,600	137,200	205,800	274,400	343,000	686,000
58	64,720	129,440	194,160	258,880	323,600	647,200
59	61,000	122,000	183,000	244,000	305,000	610,000
60	57,360	114,720	172,080	229,440	286,800	573,600
61	53,880	107,760	161,640	215,520	269,400	538,800
62	50,600	101,200	151,800	202,400	253,000	506,000
63	47,520	95,040	142,560	190,080	237,600	475,200
64	44,360	88,720	133,080	177,440	221,800	443,600
65	41,640	83,280	124,920	166,560	208,200	416,400
66	39,080	78,160	117,240	156,320	195,400	390,800
67	36,720	73,440	110,160	146,880	183,600	367,200
68	34,480	68,960	103,440	137,920	172,400	344,800
69	32,400	64,800	97,200	129,600	162,000	324,000
70	30,480	60,960	91,440	121,920	152,400	304,800

ADDITIONAL CASH INCOME IN THE FORM OF DIVIDENDS*

e.g. For 20 units of Coverage	End of Year	
Age	10th yr.	15th yr.
50	₱228,219	₱541,000
51	229,373	541,788
52	230,116	542,126
53	231,291	542,454
54	226,310	528,177
55	227,163	527,617
56	227,474	525,349
57	227,167	521,350
58	226,705	516,649
59	226,053	511,064
60	224,648	503,358
61	222,970	494,782
62	220,738	485,064
63	218,275	474,829
64	214,095	461,485
65	210,437	449,730
66	202,693	429,717
67	135,743	291,822
68	129,158	275,187
69	122,507	258,336
70	115,692	240,956

AMOUNT OF PREMIUMS

Pay monthly	₱ 272.95	543.95	814.95	1,086.95	1,358.95	2,717.95
Pay quarterly	802.45	1,599.20	2,395.95	3,195.60	3,995.30	7,990.75
Pay semi-annually	1,555.80	3,100.50	4,645.20	6,195.60	7,746.00	15,492.30
Pay annually & save 10%	2,947.85	5,874.65	8,801.45	11,739.05	14,676.65	29,353.85

NOTE: 12, 14, 16 & 18 units are also available, please call or write us for the schedule of benefits & premium rates.

*Any dividends or dividend results quoted herein are not estimates nor guarantees; they are only illustrations according to the scale of dividends at present in effect. Future dividends will depend on future experience.

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ENROLLMENT ENDS
MAR. 26, 2001

Simply fill out the information requested from the application form below. Choose the mode of premium payment you desire. Sign the application form and mail or fax it to us at: **Direct Marketing Department, The Insular Life Assurance Company, Ltd. 6781 Ayala Avenue, 1226 Makati, M.M., P.O. Box 1256 MCPO, 0725 Makati, M.M.** ***You can photocopy the Privilege Class Plan application form if you need additional copies for other interested applicants.***

APPLICATION FORM

Yes! Please send me my **Privilege Class Plan Policy.** I understand that the policy will not be in force until I have made my first premium payment.

1. **Name:** _____
Address: _____
_____ **Postal Code:** _____
Tel. No.: _____ **Fax No.:** _____
Occupation: _____ ❑ **Male** ❑ **Female**
SSS/GSIS: _____ **TIN:** _____
Date of Birth: (mo/day/yr) _____ **Age:** _____
2. **I wish to have** (amount of coverage depends on the number of units and age at effectivity of policy)
❑ 2 units ❑ 4 units ❑ 6 units ❑ 8 units ❑ 10 units
❑ 12 units ❑ 14 units ❑ 16 units ❑ 18 units ❑ 20 units
3. **I wish to pay my premiums:**
❑ Annually ❑ Semi-Annually ❑ Quarterly ❑ Monthly
4. **In case of premium default:** I elect
(Check one box only)
❑ Automatic Payment of Premium Option
❑ Extended Term Insurance Option
In the absence of such election and should the premium due continue to be in default until the end of the grace period provided in the policy, this policy shall automatically continue in force as non-participating extended term insurance.
5. **I wish that the dividends apportioned to the policy, if any, be:**
(Check one box only)
❑ A. Used to reduce premium
❑ B. Left to earn interest
❑ C. Paid in cash if dividend or accumulated dividend is at least P200.00; if not, left on deposit to earn interest; if no election is made, option B shall apply.
6. **Beneficiary:** _____
Relationship to the applicant: _____
7. **Signature of applicant:**

_____
Date: _____

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Member: Philippine Life Insurance Association (PLIA)
Member: Direct Marketing Association of the Philippines (DMAP)
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The Word

by Fr. Ruben J. Villote

The Transfiguration

Tsuyoshi Amemiya has gone global in the pursuit of the truth about what happened in Asia during the Japanese Occupation

TSUYOSHI AMEMIYA IS A PROFESSOR IN ENGLISH LITERATURE AT THE AOYAMA GAKUIN UNIVERSITY IN TOKYO, JAPAN.

If Tsuyoshi (which means "the Strong One") had remained an ordinary career professor confined within the four walls of his classroom and the boundaries of the university campus, he would not have become the really "Strong One, Tsuyoshi" as he is known among the more concerned and enlightened citizens in Japan, especially the youth.

Tsuyoshi's first visit to the Philippines in 1985 was, for him, like a Transfiguration experience (Lk. 9:28-36). "That experience," he said, "was a value- and life-changing experience for me because, for the first time in my life, I was exposed to the reality of a struggling country, much of whose pain had been caused by the Japanese themselves."

Out of that "painful experience" was born his idea of the exposure program. Tsuyoshi organized his first exposure trip to the Philippines in March 1988. "The purpose of this trip," he said, "is for the Japanese students to be exposed to the realities of a struggling country like the Philippines; secondly, to become aware of the critical problems confronting this country for which we Japanese are greatly responsible; and finally, to begin acting as responsible citizens of the world in order for us to change the situation and be changed by the experience."

The groups have since journeyed to Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Cebu, Dipolog and some other depressed areas in Luzon and Metro Manila. They try to blend compassionately with the environment where they are. They work in the fields, install water pumps, repair dirt roads in remote barrios, sleep on the floor, eat with bare hands — and really experience, at least for a while, the pain of being poor in this country.

Tsuyoshi Amemiya and his group are in the Philippines right now for their 15th exposure trip. "I would like you to know how much our being with you has meant to our life afterwards," he wrote.

Tsuyoshi, at present, has gone global in the sense that he has now committed himself to the pursuit of the truth about what happened in Asia during the Japanese Occupation.

The student-participants in the 11th exposure trip to the Philippines wrote: "Our history books make no mention about the brutalities committed by the Japanese Army. Worse, we Japanese students have accepted the edited history without question ... Now that we know the truth about what happened, it is our moral duty as human beings to make an apology to you, Filipinos, for the sins of our forefathers. Without a true understanding of the follies of our past, we the young generations may repeat the errors of the past."

Tsuyoshi Amemiya has been helping initiate movements of reconciliation and peace to get the Japanese people and their leaders to acknowledge the truth about World War II and "to express apologies for our war crimes and to pay tribute to the memory of the victims of war."

Professor Tsuyoshi Amemiya and his 15th Exposure Group will stay overnight at our Center, March 18-19. There will be a "small conversation" on the state of higher education in the Philippines requested by the Chronicle of Higher Education in the US which is interested in Amemiya's exposure program with emphasis on Japan's war responsibility. David Walfish, a Beijing-based correspondent for the Chronicle, will interview Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ, president of the Ateneo de Manila and Emerlinda Roman, chancellor of the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

The Transfiguration of Tsuyoshi Amemiya and his disciples continues. And every time they come down the mountain "to do their homework back home," the world becomes a little better for the rest of us. We are grateful.

Tsuyoshi and Fr. Ben (fourth and fifth from left) with the boys of the Center for Migrant Youth: Paying tribute to the memory of war victims.

The Truth about Losing Weight Fast

WEIGHT LOSS SPECIAL!!

The amazing Fruit Acid which attacks and devours fat – is it really the only safe and effective way to slim down?

(...while continuing to eat without dieting)

Even if conventional means are ineffective in making you lose weight, even if you think you've tried everything, can you answer this question:

Would you like to be at your ideal weight within a month? (in 3 weeks if the number of kilos you want to lose is less than 18 kilos)

You must have heard of these revolutionary fruit acids which have amazing effects on the youthfulness of skin. Their effectiveness is really amazing and unprecedentedly successful in the USA. Today, fruit acids are taking on unwanted kilos using the major discovery of Hydroxicitric Acid, (found in a very rare tropical fruit with extraordinary properties: Garcinia Cambogia).

What you have to know

- The indisputable effect of the new fruit acid on your weight is scientifically PROVEN.
- This "Fruit Acid" helps people slim down (or stay slim) who have never slimmed down before
- You can lose 1 to 3 kilos (or more) the very first week and finally have the body you dreamed of
- You can eat what you like, whenever you like

Our scientists themselves know it

All our scientists know very well that their American colleagues have established the amazing slimming action of Hydoxicitric acid. Their recent discoveries prove indisputably that this fruit acid increases thermogenesis, inhibits lipogenesis and naturally reduces appetite. Not only, you don't store new fat, but you also burn the stored fat you hold in reserve, even if it has been there for several years.

You will lose weight almost inspite of yourself

This extraordinary fruit acid (sold under the name "Mag Tab" that you can order right now for a free trial*) is a formidable fat-devouring acid which naturally reduces your appetite and helps you slim down confidently, knowing that you will lose weight without hunger or fatigue.

Tests conducted on 11 cases and 2 exceptional cases: NO FAILURES

A test was carried out on men and women of all ages who needed to lose 5 to 25 kilos in 30 days. Success in 99.8% of cases. The most amazing aspect is that 6 months later none of them have taken on new weight.

Even people who had never lost weight before did this time. Even those who thought their case was hopeless and believed in nothing any more lost their excess weight.

Even better. André, 40, 1.84 m, 146 kgs, and Gisele, 32, 1.62 m, 95 kgs are two special cases. For 10 years they had tried all sorts of experiments. For 10 years they could not lose more than 3 kilos per month. Suddenly, this simple experiment started helping them to lose weight. They lost up to 25 kilos a month until 2 months later they were at their ideal normal weight for the first time in their lives.

Visible results right away

All you have to do is take two capsules in the morning at breakfast and two capsules at night before bed. While changing nothing in your eating habits, without hunger or fatigue, you will slim down gradually and steadily by 500 g to 1.2 kg per day the first week. Then you will lose between 2.8 and 5 kgs per week to quickly reach your ideal weight. The results will be visible in the first few days. You will see very quickly that your body is becoming slimmer and slimmer until it reaches its ideal shape. Then, with the Hydroxicitric acid acting directly on the "absorption/combustion" balance of your body fat, your weight will remain steady with no new weight gain.

The trial is totally free

All you have to do is check the number of kilos you wish to lose on the coupon opposite and mail it today. You will receive together with your order a complimentary free trial cure. You will be able to see, free of charge, the results on yourself and without the slightest risk and lose weight immediately.

Use the entire trial package, you owe us nothing, not now, not later.

If for any reason you don't immediately start losing weight, just return to us your unopened treatment and receive a full refund as quickly as possible. Of course, we wouldn't take the risk of disappointing you if we weren't practically certain that this free trial would prove to you the amazing effectiveness of "Mag Tab".

There is no reason that what works for thousands of others should not work for you. But hurry! Right now, we have only 300 trial packages available. More are expected to come in from abroad in a month only. Write us today to make sure you will be served without delay.

GIFT

If you reply within 5 days, you'll receive an additional bonus – a very specially selected, "jewelry" gift. This thank you present will be yours no matter will be your decision regarding the "Mag Tab" cure.

*No obligation to buy

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GOOD FOR ONE
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YES, for your free trial offer, with no obligation to buy interests me. I will receive a free treatment that I may use entirely while owing you nothing. If, after 15 days of my trial, I am not 100% satisfied, I will return the unopened full cure by registered mail. You will then refund me, immediately and fully, the cost of my treatment, no questions asked.

This above being understood, I choose the following formula:

- ☐ 1502 (loss of 8 to 15 kgs.)
  Free trial treatment + DOUBLE treatment of "Mag Tab" at the amazing price of P1,695 (a P295 savings) + P55 forwarding charges = P1,750
- ☐ 1501 (loss of 4 to 7 kgs.)
  Free trial treatment + STANDARD treatment of "Mag Tab" at the amazing price of P995 + P 55 forwarding charges = P1,050
- ☐ 1503 (loss of 15 to 20 kgs.)
  Free trial treatment + TRIPLE treatment of "Mag Tab" at the amazing price of P2,295 (a P690 savings) + P55 forwarding charges = P2,350
- ☐ 1504 (loss of more than 20 kgs.)
  Free trial treatment + DRASTIC treatment of "Mag Tab" at the amazing price of P2,795 (a P1,185 savings) + P55 forwarding charges = P2,850

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The Fashion Photographer

Ronnie Salvacion

For this sidetracked psychologist, technique comes second to serendipity

MIDWAY INTO HIS PSYCHOLOGY COURSE, RONNIE SALVACION HAD A CHANGE OF HEART: HE JUST COULDN'T IMAGINE HIMSELF COUNSELING KIDS. LUCKILY, HE BELONGED TO A FAMILY OF PHOTOGRAPHY BUFFS: HIS FATHER HAD A LOT OF CAMERA EQUIPMENT AND HIS BROTHER HAD A DARKROOM. SALVACION FINISHED COMMUNICATION ARTS INSTEAD, MAJORING IN PHOTOGRAPHY.

Ironically, his first jobs involved taking class pictures of preschoolers. He was soon rescued by college buddy Rajo Laurel, who brought him to the attention of Mega magazine. The first fashion shoot he did landed on the cover, and it's been his bread and butter since.

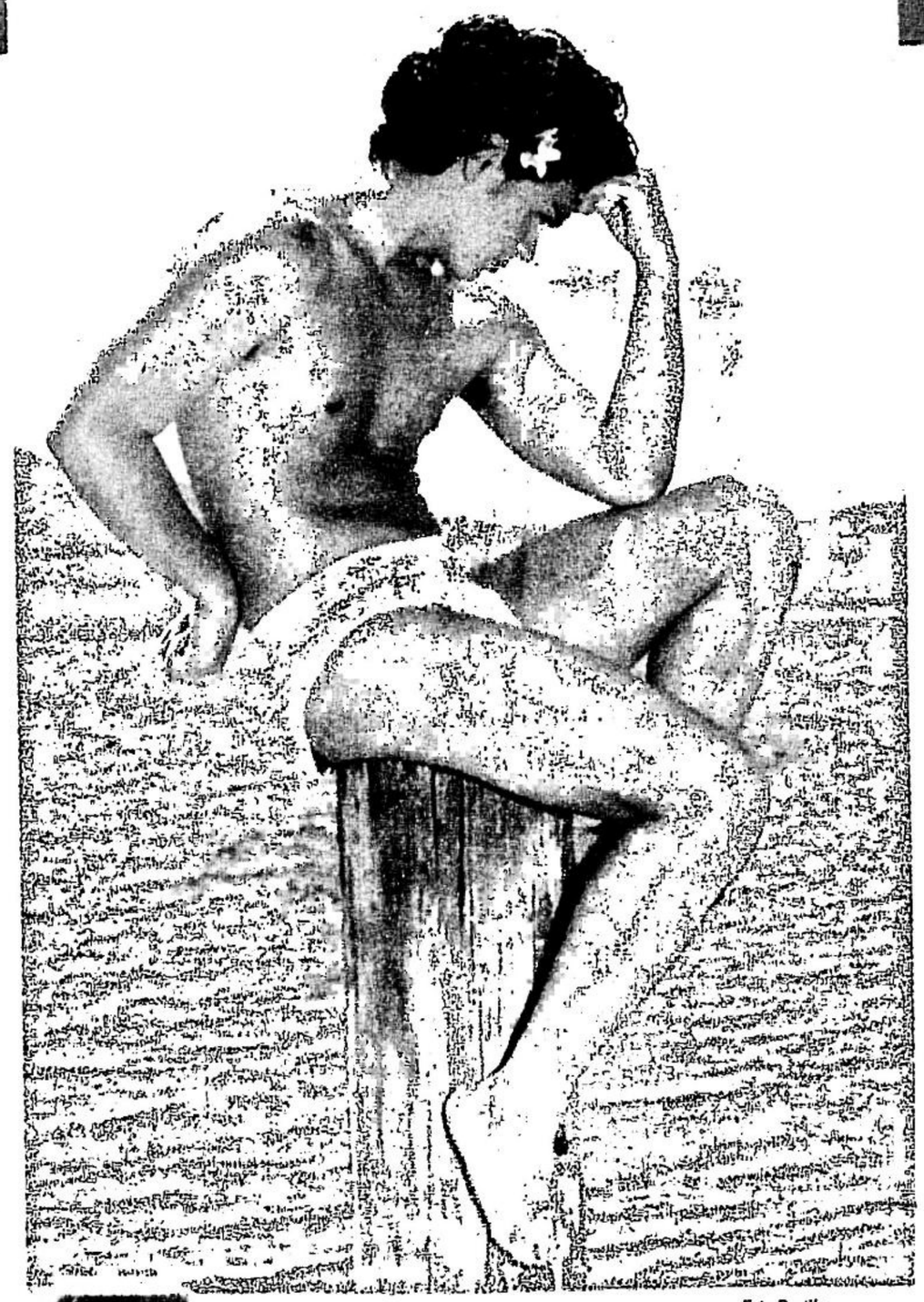
Salvacion has done work for ABS-CBN's Star Circle Batch 2, as well as film and recording companies, advertising agencies and glossy magazines.

A Good Picture

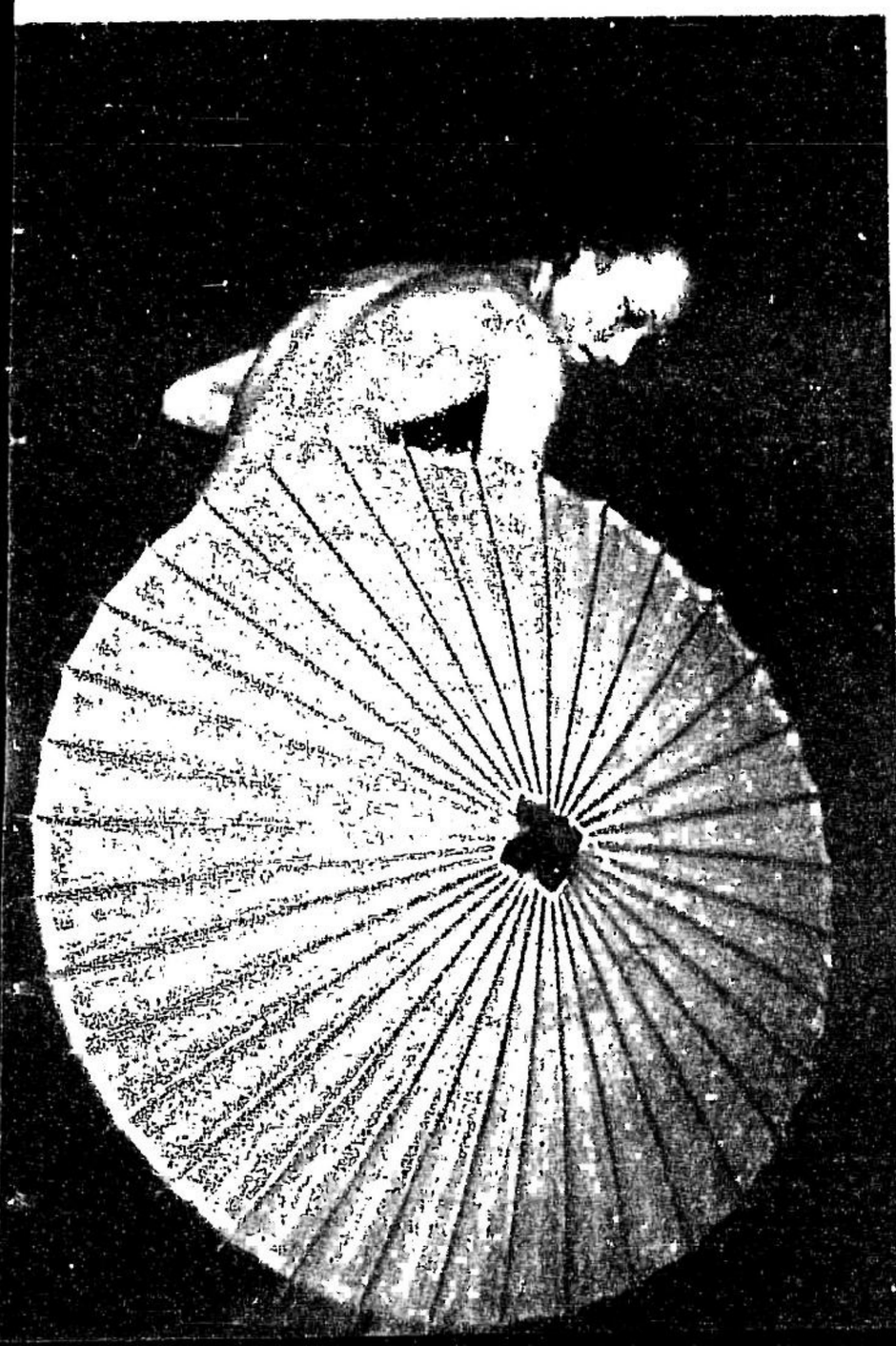
"A great picture starts with a moment. It's what differentiates it from a good photo, which can be controlled and composed. A moment can come from the spontaneity of the subject, the setting, or simply your mood for the day. Technique is complementary."

Best Shot

"I was shooting in an Anilao dive spot for Bench and was waiting for the sunset. Douglas Quijano requested me to take test shots of a guy named Eric Parilla, who looked like Hawaiian actor Tom Babauta. Everything just fell into place—the beach setting, the curly hair, the only flower that could be plucked, and the subject, who happens to be a dancer, who could split, tumble, and do a risky headstand on a pole. Knowing I had enough good shots, I asked him to do a simple 'Thinker' pose out of pity. It turned out to be the best. Apparently, American Photo magazine agrees, as it judged it worthy of recognition in its annual contest."



Eric Parilla, photographed in Anilao



Wilma Doesnt

Horror Story

"The worst thing that could happen to any photographer is to finish a shoot only to find out that there was no film inside the camera. It happened to me twice, and I couldn't think of a better reason to explain to both client and talent that we had to do it all over again. I told them that I had to take additional shots without charging extra and they even ended up being grateful."

Eric Caruncho

Ronnie Salvacion

This Week

Art

I/O, exhibit of digital artistry featuring the works of Heber Bartolome, George Cabig, Rosscapili, Archie Degamo, Ferdinand Doctolero, Kinjo Estioko, Aileen Familara, John Marin Flores, Fatima Lasay, Dennis Magdamo, Al Manrique, Ronnie Millevo,

Hernando Ocampo's "The Contrast," 1940, part of the Hiyasining exhibition in Cebu, Iloilo and Bago

Benjie Nuval, Joey Ong and Nelson Viterbo at West Gallery, West Avenue, QC until March 21. For details, call 411-0336 or 411-9221.

Still, a two-man exhibit by Alfred B. Cruz Jr. and Alvin Villaruel at Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall A, until March 11.

Denise Weldon holds a solo exhibit of photographs featuring Iris prints at the Luz Gallery, Locsin Bldg., cor. Ayala and Makati Avenues until March 22.

Abstract Romance, solo exhibit by Rosscapili ongoing until March 15 at the Metropolitan Art Gallery, SM Megamall. For details, call 631-6160 or 633-9789.

Longitude, a solo exhibit of oil paintings by Christine Amador until March 14 at the Lopez Memorial Museum Shop, G/F The Power Plant Mall, 25 Lopez Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. For details, call 898-0981.

Siglo Ika-Labinsiyam, exhibit on the influence of Western art techniques on the art of 19th century Philippines culled from the collection of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas until March 31 at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Roxas Blvd., Manila. For details, call 523-7855 or 521-1517.

Pag-Ibig Findings, a group exhibition featuring the works of UP Fine Arts students, until March 18, Big Sky Mind, New Manila, QC. For details, call 414-7451.

Onstage

Tirik, a stage play directed by Soxy Topacio featuring Leonardo Litton and Allyson Vil Gonzales, March 13 at Mr. Melody Bar & Restaurant, 75 Roces Ave. cor. Sct. Santiago, QC. For details, call 415-0373 or 374-1361.

Film

The Japan Foundation Manila Office presents **Eiga Sai 2001**, a lineup of cinema greats by master directors Yasujiro Ozu, Yoji Yamada, Yoshitaro Nomura, Kon Ichikawa, Keisuke Kinoshita, Yuzo Kawashima, Seijun Suzuki and Akira Kurosawa at the UP Film Center, March 13-17, and at the Equitable PCIB's Antonio Molina Hall, March 19-23. Admission is free. For details, call 811-6155 to 58.

Music

Concert at the Park presents Symphonic Sound featuring the Angono Wind Ensemble of Jose Rommel Gragera as it brings to the fore the group's musical expertise in its interpretation of the works by the masters, March 11, 5 p.m., Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium.

Rhythm and Divette features Dessa and Ralion Alonso in concert at Ratskys on March 15. Ratskys will go wild and wacky with "Your Honor . . . Si Arnel at si Marissa Po!" topbilled by Arnel Ignacio and Marissa Sanchez on March 28. For details, call 546-7500 or 825-5939.

Barbie's Cradle will perform at Silang, Cavite on March 16 at 9 p.m., SM Manila on March 17, 4 p.m. and all Tuesdays of March at Nth Degree.

Food

Celebrate your **graduation party** at the Legend Hotel with different selections of lunch or dinner for a minimum of six persons. Available until March 31. For reservations, call 633-1501 loc. 8041.

Saisaki's (at Glorietta III) exciting **Lunch Treats** now delight diners with free one buffet for every group of 11, Monday to Saturday lunch, until March 15. For the Misonogoers, avail of the 10 percent discount, Monday to Sunday lunch until December this year.

Mandarin Oriental joins graduates in celebrating their victories with the hotel's drink of the month—a refreshing blend of pineapple, apple and orange juices combined with the soft citrus fragrance of Passoa. As a congratulatory token, bring home one marching owl companion as a memento.

Holiday Inn Manila brings in the culinary treasures of Cagayan Valley with **Pagayaya Food Festival** at the Café Coquilla until March 17. For details, call 526-1212 ext. 2318.

Manila Gallery Suites gives you a taste of the Land of the Rising Sun with a sumptuous buffet at the Raphael Café-Restaurant until March 17.

Atbp

Katha (organizations of Filipino composers) is holding its **annual general assembly** on March 11, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the UP Balay Kalinaw, Guerrero Street, UP Diliman. For inquiries, call 925-2705 or 433-4107.

The Westin Philippine Plaza holds a **Toga Party** for the graduates at the Siete Pecados on March 16. Entrance fee is P300 per person with one free drink. For inquiries, call 551-5555 ext. 5000.

The Lopez Memorial Museum's Luncheon Series continues with The First Filipino Pensionados on March 21 at the Benpres Building's Executive Dining Lounge. Colonial art expert and historian Dr. Luciano Santiago talks about the life and times of the first Filipino pensionado artists who, in furthering their art studies abroad, sought to achieve recognition for Filipino talent. For details, call 6312417 or 449-2355.

Meg Summer Bandemonium, an interschool band competition for females aged 13-22. Deadline for submission of entries is on March 12. For details, call 631-2859 locals 16 and 18.

Gawad Komisyon sa Tula, a special poetry contest for professional and awarded poets. Deadline for submission of entries is on March 19. For details, call 736-2526 or 734-5547.

Junior Writers' Club will hold a workshop on **Training Adults How to Write Children's Literature** on March 24 and 25, 12 noon to 4 p.m. at the 4th Flr., Earthlite, COD Bldg., Cubao, Quezon City. The scope includes children's Fiction and Non-Fiction and how to submit a manuscript to an editor (local or abroad). Limited slots. For reservations, call 831-3705, or text 09179418485 or e-mail at jrwritersclub@yahoo.com.

Art Strokes, a summer workshop featuring various styles in painting using charcoal, pastel, watercolor, oil, pen and ink and mixed media. Also offers Creative Writing workshop for both children and adults. Workshops start in April. For details, call Eleanor Yu at 740-7221.

X-manila

Hiyasining, a mobile exhibition of 30 selected works in photo reproductions, Casa Gorordo Museum in Cebu until March 16, at the Museo Iloilo in Iloilo City from March 19-30 and the Jorge B. Vargas Community Center in Bago City from April 2-11.

Bulong ng Siglo, a two-act play presented by the Sinag Kabataan Artists Foundation on March 16, 4 p.m. at the Lolomboy National High School, Lolomboy, Bocaue, Bulacan. Tickets will be available at the gate. For details, call (044) 692-2409.

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Hand Games

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.

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